

Friday May 17 1996

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,555

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The chainsaws buzz again



Archaos - back from the brink

Timing the lid on Gannes

Defiant Yeltsin plays liberal card

Conscription and death penalty end

David Hearst in Moscow

President Boris Yeltsin, fighting to recapture the confidence of Russian voters before next month's election...

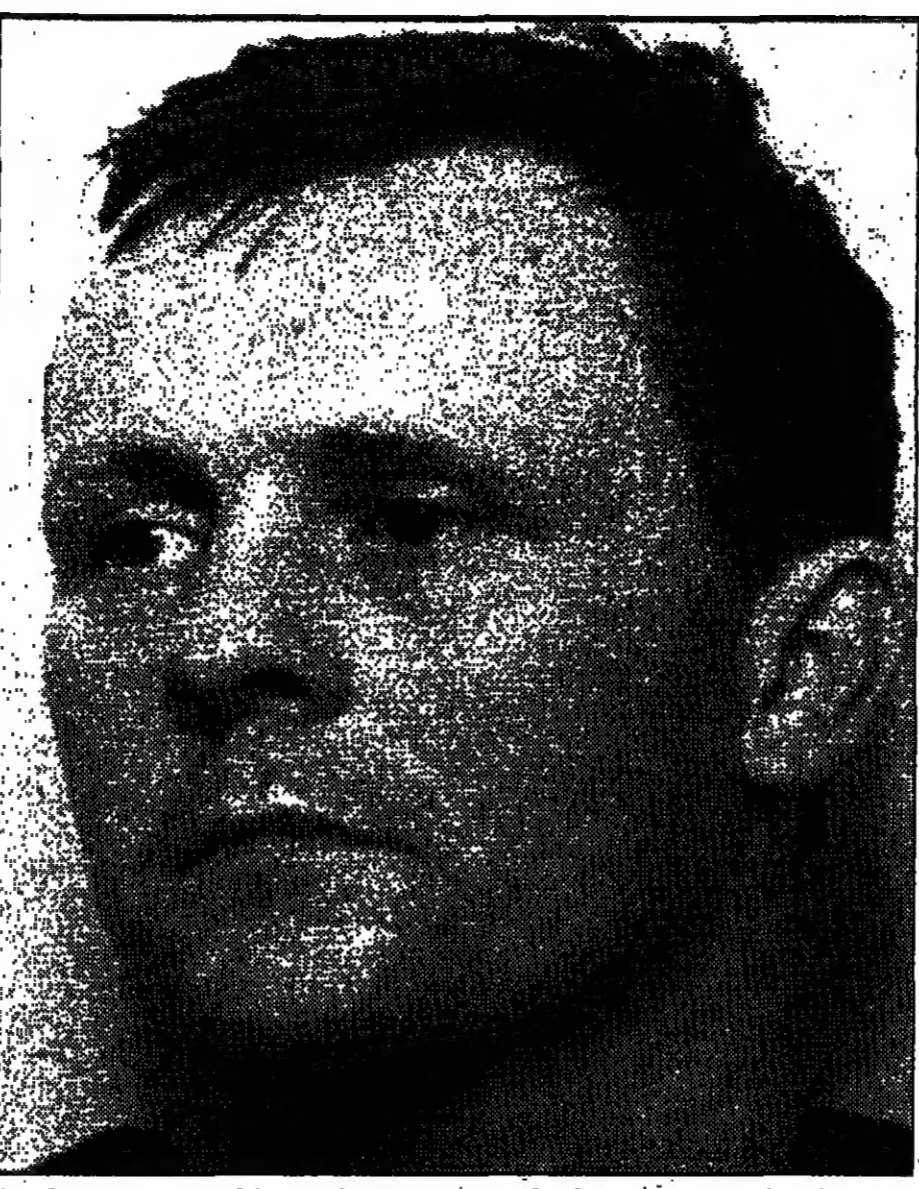
The death penalty, delivered by a bullet to the back of the head, would be limited "by stages".

These would mean the heads of men on whom Mr Yeltsin depends - General Pavel Grachev, the minister of defence...

With his opinion poll rating stuck at 24 to 28 per cent, and many around him urging him to cancel the elections...

Russia spy deal, page 6

Daniel Handley's killers told they must die in prison



Timothy Morris, left, and Brett Tyler, jailed for murder, buggery and false imprisonment.

The judge told them: 'I do not believe you are truly sorry for what you have done.'

As 'evil vultures' who strangled nine-year-old are given three life sentences, NSPCC calls for national register of convicted child sex offenders

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

TWO paedophiles who lived out a fantasy of abducting, sexually abusing and murdering a small boy were given three life sentences each yesterday...

guilty by a jury of four women and eight men after deliberations of less than an hour. He had admitted abducting and bugging Daniel, but not strangling him.

the Handley family wept in the back of the court. Because of the nature of their offences and "the very, very high risk" they posed to small boys, the judge said the pair should never be released.

Radioactive radon gas widespread through UK

Paul Brown

WARNING letters will be sent to 100,000 homes next month offering free tests to households which may be exposed to dangerous levels of radioactive radon gas...

Anger as school plans to build armoury for pupils

Dave Hill

A FIERCE dispute has broken out over plans to build an armoury at a Dorchester secondary school, where firearms and live ammunition would be used by pupils as young as 14.

arms and the security of schools. Two governors who strongly oppose the scheme have been pledged to silence following an emergency governors' meeting last week.

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Sketch

All of a spin in feuds' corner



Simon Hoggart

WHAT happens when a spin doctor spins himself? Take David Hill, the debonair and charming spokesman for the Labour Party. On Wednesday night he briefed journalists about Mr Tony Blair's powerful words to the Shadow Cabinet on comradeship, and how reports of dissension among the brothers had been grossly exaggerated by the media. Imagine Mr Hill's distress yesterday when he read accounts of the meeting in the newspapers, some of which implied that his - that is, Mr Hill's - words were actually uttered by the leader himself. This might seem a small matter to you, but to a spin doctor it is life and death. It's as if our Lord had a spokesman: "No, no, he did not use the actual words, 'Blessed are the meek'; instead he expressed a general belief in an ongoing best-case scenario for those currently deficient in self-assertiveness skills." Quick as a flash Mr Hill faxed senior Labour party members to make clear what had really happened. This was a private message so it would be wrong of me to quote from it. But the gist was that the media should be blamed for blowing out of all proportion his statement that Tony Blair was blaming the media for blowing it up out of all proportion. I hope that is clear. But it does leave the physical problem of what happens when a spin doctor is obliged to spin on his own behalf. Presumably he becomes like a Black Hole, and disappears up his own gyratory system. In the Commons the Labour frontbench feuders sat, like the Clametts and the McCoy's, adjacent but not talking. Gordon Brown said Treasury calculations of public borrowing had been mistaken, and so the Chancellor's budget strategy was unravelling.

Mr Clarke chuckled amiably. Labour was in trouble if they were complaining about Treasury forecasts. These were always being changed. Nobody, he implied, ever took them seriously. "He was like an astrologer. The honourable member complains that I told him that romance was in the air last Thursday and yet he didn't get a single offer. Surely he is not so naive as to imagine that the stars can offer more than general guidance..." John Major came in. There was a moment of tension. Was he about to do a Bob Dole, acknowledge that he stands little chance of winning an election, and resign his seat? No such luck: the British system does not allow it. But Mr Blair was kindly, as if to an elderly relative who will not be with us much longer. He inquired gently about problems with the mass slaughter of cattle. It turns out that there are some 120,000 on Death Row. Mr Major said the requirement to slaughter cattle exceeds our capacity to kill them. It seems like a perfect case for privatisation. If a Wisconsin company can run our trains, surely the Texas Department of Corrections could organise a mass cull; they do at home every day. Prime Minister's Questions are increasingly stylised. Like sumo wrestling bouts. The Tories praise the economy and point out how damaging it would be to end child benefit for 16-year-olds. Labour finds every excuse to paraphrase the new Tory slogan: "It's still hurting, and it's still not working." The saddest figure yesterday was Michael Fabricant. Some time ago I mentioned the question he had tabled for Mr Major: would he make a statement about the effect of Government policy on the people of Lichfield? I guessed that this would be an opportunity to roast the Government over crime figures, or BSE. It must have been bitter indeed to see it at the end of the list yesterday. Mr Fabricant twitched and glowered at his more verbose colleagues, but we got barely halfway to his question before the Speaker called time. For Mr Fabricant, once again his finest hour is on permanent hold.

That uncertain feeling

Cannes 96

Derek Malcolm

Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty

A TWO-HOUR film about a young girl pondering her virginity, if and when to give it away and to whom, isn't exactly a mouthwatering prospect. Fortunately, however, Bernardo Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty, in which the much-touted Liv Ullmann plays the girl, isn't entirely about that, though there are points in the film when one hopes she will make up her mind one way or the other. It is set in and around a Tuscan villa where the girl goes after her poet mother's suicide. There, she scribbles poetry and meets a group of expatriates who will perhaps teach her about life. One may be her father and another is the young man from a neighbouring family with whom she shared her first kiss four years before. This is one of Bertolucci's smaller films, the first he has made in his home country since the debacle of a Ridiculous Man. He is trying to create a Mozartian atmosphere, well away from melodrama and the baroque. You could also suggest a debt to Chekhov, though the screenplay by an American novelist, Susan Minot, is not

quite good enough for that to be a large one. The other inhabitants of the villa include Jeremy Irons as a bitter playwright dying of leukaemia who has his last flirtation with the girl, and Sinead Cusack as her hostess, on whom everyone seems to depend. There is also the veteran French actor Jean Marais, who is old enough to be beyond doing more than looking at the girl admiringly and speaking his mind. Finally, there is Donald McCann's artist, determined to paint her but with troubles of his own. The whole is richly shot by Darius Khondji, directed with the kind of expertise one would expect from this experienced film maker and acted out with varying skills. Irons is outstanding and the scene when he is taken off to die in hospital is one of the most moving in the film. But a lot depends on Tyler's portrait of the uncertain girl and, if looks alone could do the job, the film would be an unqualified success. But they can't and at times you feel a more experienced actress might have suited the part better. Still, anyone who has holidayed in Tuscany and perhaps taught her about life, will find some resonance in Stealing Beauty and ignore its faults. It creates a kind of nostalgia that's difficult to ignore. The film's detractors - and there were plenty among the critics at Cannes - may wonder whether Bertolucci's loving examination of beauty and youth isn't a little voyeuristic. In Italy, however, it is already a success and there seems no reason to suppose it will not find an appreciative audience elsewhere too.

Cannes diary, Review, page 9

Drive to end reading crisis

Donald MacLeod

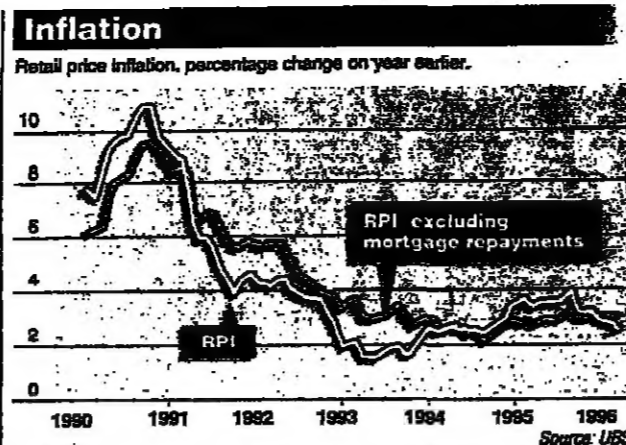
A THIRD of inner city children start secondary school at least two years behind in reading age, the Basic Skills Agency said yesterday, announcing a £1 million programme to tackle literacy and numeracy in schools. The scale of the problem prompted the government body, set up to combat adult illiteracy, to move into the

classroom to support poor readers. More than 500 secondary schools applied for grants. Alan Wells, the agency's director, said the schools were not necessarily representative of the country as a whole but showed a worrying situation. In some schools four in 10 pupils were at least two years behind when they started. An estimated 6 million adults are functionally illiterate.

Beef crisis leads to dearer meat and puts brakes on inflation fall at 2.4pc

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE beef crisis has led to higher meat prices in shops after retailers compensated for enforced discounts on unwanted beef by even bigger mark-ups on lamb, poultry and pork. It was revealed yesterday. Inflation figures released by the Government showed that the cost of non-seasonal food, which includes meat, rose in April, the first month in which the effects of the BSE scare were felt in the high street. However, the overall figures brought some cheer to the Government, with the annual inflation rate falling to its lowest level since the autumn of 1994, and evidence that budget tax cuts have boosted living standards.



Cheaper mortgages meant the annual rate of inflation fell from 2.7 per cent to 2.4 per cent last month. It would have dropped to 2.3 per cent without the BSE effect. A 2.5 per cent drop in beef prices shaded .01 points off the retail price index, but rises of 16.8 per cent in lamb, 10 per cent in pork and 5.3 per cent in chicken added .07 points, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Meat prices overall rose by 6.9 per cent in the year to April, compared with the 5.7 per cent annual increase recorded in March. Since meat makes up around 2.8 per cent of the retail price index, ONS officials said the impact of BSE was to add .1 points to inflation. Dearer meat also meant there was no improvement in the Government's preferred yardstick of underlying inflation - which strips out the cost of home loans. This remained steady at 2.9 per cent, slightly above its target level of 2.5 per cent. Angela Knight, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government was on course to hit its target, adding the inflation outlook was as good as it had been at any time in the past 50 years. Yesterday's data was in line with City forecasts, and most analysts share the Bank of England's view that underlying inflation will decline during the summer. The ONS figures suggest that competition remains fierce in many of the 14 sectors covered by the retail price index. Clothing and footwear are cheaper than a year ago, while the price of household goods fell by 0.5 per cent last month. In addition, cheaper home contents insurance, telephone rentals, bank charges, water charges and council rents helped keep downward pressure on inflation last month. However, some analysts said there were warning signs that the pick-up in consumer demand was leading to higher prices in some categories. They cited dearer leisure goods and leisure services as proof that retailers were starting to widen profit margins.

Additional signs that consumer spending may remain robust over the coming months came from the ONS's tax and prices index, a measure of the pay increases workers need to maintain their living standards. In March, the index was running at 3 per cent, but fell to 1 per cent in April as a result of last November's tax cuts affecting pay packets for the first time. With earnings growing at an annual rate of almost 4 per cent, yesterday's figures suggest living standards are increasing by almost 3 per cent a year, giving ministers hope that the elusive "feelgood factor" may be about to return. Last year was the first since 1982 in which real take-home pay fell, but a 3 per cent rise over the next 12 months would match that in the last election year of 1992.



Anna McIvor (third from right) in the guerrilla camp before the chase by Indonesian forces that led to freedom for the European prisoners but death for two Indonesian hostages

Kidnappers murder Indonesian hostages

One of the women among the four Britons held captive in Irian Jaya witnessed the killings on the trek to freedom

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THE JOY of freedom turned to horror yesterday for the four British students rescued by the Indonesian army in Irian Jaya when they learned that the two Indonesian hostages had been murdered by their kidnapers. Anna McIvor, aged 20, was

the only witness to the killings as she had become separated from the other British hostages - Daniel Start, William Chese and Annette van der Kolk. She was found alone in the jungle about an hour after the others had been freed. The murders occurred just before the army launched their rescue at 3pm (GMT) on Wednesday, according to

Lt-Gen Soeyono, the Indonesian army's chief of general affairs. He said: "Anna and the two Indonesians had become separated from the others when the Free Papua Movement rebels suddenly turned on the Indonesians." One was axed in the back and the other was reportedly hit by a poisoned arrow. "They did not die immediately but were dragged away," Lt-Gen Soeyono said. "Anna was left in the forest alone. It must have been awful for her." Soldiers found the two bodies after talking to Ms McIvor and following the trail of blood through the jungle.

Details of the rescue emerged yesterday, showing it was a far less clinical operation than had first been presented. Lt-Gen Soeyono said: "Troops with sniffer dogs chased the rebels through the jungle for five days. Then their exact position was located using thermal imaging equipment from a pilotless drone. "Four helicopters then flew two sorties to the clearing. Special forces soldiers ambushed down and there was a brief gun fight." Brig-Gen Prabowo Subianto, a special forces commander, said: "Two rebels were shot in the battle. Six others had been killed in the

course of the previous five days of operation." None of the eight hostages was harmed. Gen Prabowo was speaking at the Gatot Subroto hospital in Jakarta after visiting the hostages there. When they arrived they all had to be helped from the bus to the lift. All were wearing borrowed tee-shirts and tracksuit trousers. From the glazed, bewildered looks on their faces it was clear they had endured great hardships in the last few months. They all were very thin. Gen Prabowo said they had eaten nothing for five days except fruit they had picked

while walking through the jungle. Graham Burton, the British ambassador in Jakarta, also visited them in hospital. He said afterwards: "They've lost a lot of weight but are in remarkable form, particularly as they have just heard of the death of two people they spent four months with." Both the Indonesian authorities and Mr Burton again denied that the SAS had ever been involved. Mr Burton said: "I don't know where these rumours came from. We did, however, have two Scotland Yard detectives in the area. And they are probably the best in the world in these sorts of situations."

'Triad' link to mutilation of Hong Kong journalist raises fears about press freedom

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

HONG KONG'S press reeled in horror yesterday after two well-dressed men strolled into the newsroom of a new magazine and hacked off the left arm and right thumb of a prominent journalist. Wednesday's attack on Leung Tin-wai, aged 53, bore the hallmarks of the colony's notoriously brutal triads, which have long had links to the media through the control

of street vendors and distribution networks. A leading Hong Kong press group, the Oriental Daily News, was set up by two brothers known as "White Powder Man". They later fled to Taiwan to escape charges of heroin smuggling. The empire, which this week sacked most of the staff on its fledgling English language paper, Eastern Express, is now run by a nephew. Surgeons at the Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, reattached Mr Leung's forearm in a 17-hour operation. News executives met senior

police officials to demand better protection. "Today Leung Tin-wai, whose turn will be tomorrow," the Chinese language Mad Dog Daily asked. "It is appalling to think that a journalist going about his business in a free society such as Hong Kong should be the victim of such a brutal and senseless attack," said the governor, Chris Patten, who has made the defence of press freedom a main theme of the last colonial administration. The assault is a new blow to Hong Kong's press, ravaged

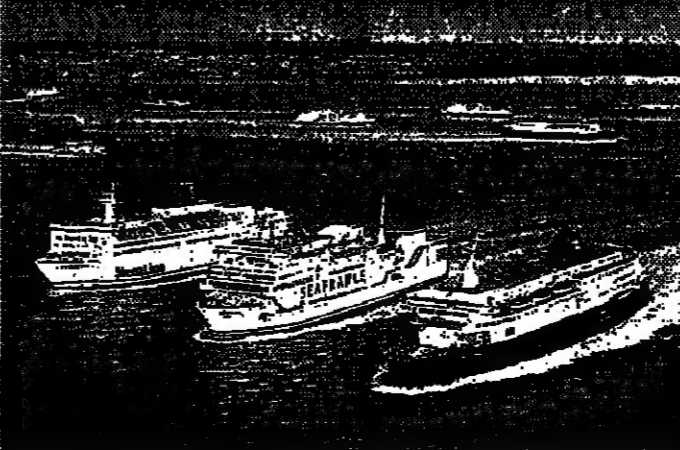
by a six-month price war and anxious about its freedom after 1997. It took place minutes after Mr Leung had held a news conference to promote today's launch of Surprise Weekly, a glossy magazine focusing on crime and show business - another industry infested with triads. The anti-triad unit of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force is investigating the assault. Mr Leung was a founding editor of Next Magazine, whose offices were smashed up in 1993. The magazine's former publisher, rag-trade

magnate Jimmy Lai, has also been attacked. When Mr Lai launched a newspaper, Apple Daily, last summer, it was plagued by triad intimidation. At the start of the press price war in December, unidentified attackers broke into his home and bludgeoned his head. "Journalists must not censor themselves or retreat because of this," said Yeung Kam-kuen, head of the Hong Kong Journalists Association. "We must fight back."

Ocean takeover, page 7

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Help staff to blow whistle urges Nolan

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

The report

THOUSANDS of public bodies, from universities and schools to housing associations, were told yesterday to set up whistleblowers' charters to help ensure proper use of nearly £16 billion of taxpayers' money.

The Nolan committee on standards in public life called for an end to a culture in which managers "shot the messenger" when staff alleged fraud or impropriety. Employees must not be disciplined or victimised, provided they acted without malice and in the public interest.

Lord Nolan, in a letter to John Major, who set up the committee, said there was no "fundamental malaise", but his report called for more openness in the running of 4,600 bodies, including grant-maintained schools, further education colleges and training bodies.

The Prime Minister promised to give the report "the close study it deserves", while Labour's Derek Foster, shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said the party would go further than Nolan and ensure local and regional authorities had the power to scrutinise "policies and actions of such quangos, whose local accountability will remain a pipe-dream."

The bodies studied by Nolan are governed by unpaid boards but mostly funded and supervised by national quangos, whose ruling bodies and chief executives are appointed by the Government. The committee said these were responsible for identifying and remedying malpractice "yet in the few cases where things have gone badly wrong... it has frequently been the press or the local Member of Parliament... which has prompted the regulator into action."

There should be more careful use of gagging clauses, and there should be opportunities to raise concerns confidentially inside, and if necessary outside, the organisations for which staff worked.

An approach that invited all staff "to act responsibly to uphold the reputation of their organisation and maintain public confidence... might help to avoid cases when the first reaction of management faced with unwelcome information has been to shoot the messenger."

Investigating bodies should be open about findings. The committee implicitly urged the Housing Corporation, monitoring more than 2,000 separate associations, to identify

ify those cases where mismanagement or fraud had occurred.

"Confidentiality promotes rumour and exaggeration," it said. Housing associations receiving public funds should involve tenants in management of properties.

Training and Enterprise Councils should be more rigorously monitored by government regional offices. One of the committee remarked yesterday how one TEC, South Thames, "had to go just before anyone could do anything about it."

Boards of TECs should declare when they awarded contracts to companies in which members had an interest, as part of a drive to inform the public about their work.

The report suggested that no vice-chancellors from English universities should sit on their funding council, to avoid conflicts of interest — a practice already followed by the Scottish and Welsh councils.

The committee rejected representations that board members on any of the bodies should be paid or receive allowances, although they should be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

Lord Nolan said yesterday: "We want fewer but better regulators and auditors." But bodies must have greater freedom on day-to-day management, or there was a danger exercised over schools, some universities and colleges — might be replaced by centralised control.

James Tickle, deputy director of the National Federation of Housing Associations, said the naming of falling associations would become inevitable. "Sunlight is the best disinfectant," he said.

The TECs said the report was a "clear endorsement" of their existing practices on openness and integrity they had already adopted.

Second Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life — Local Public Spending Bodies, HMSO, £14.



The mayor, David Miller, thinks the ban on the bells of the clock once wound by the young Stan Laurel (below) should have been challenged

Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for one in Ulverston

RESIDENTS of a Cumbrian market town are preparing to resist moves to quieten the chimes of a historic clock, once wound by the young Stan Laurel before he became a



Councillors last night forecast "a big uproar" in the ensuing quiet as the quarter-hourly chimes in Ulverston are muffled for the first time in 150 years, to be replaced by a quieter recording.

town clock followed a year-long row involving Ulverston's most intermittent resident. The woman, named as Juliet McKeon and reportedly from London, bought or inherited a terraced house in the lee of the clock a year ago, and began complaining about its chimes almost at once.

Proposals for silence between 11pm and 7am were opposed by 600 people who signed a petition, and by the woman's neighbours.

Council officials said the chimes produced decibels equal to a heavy lorry and were a "statutory nuisance". An initial decision by the hung council to let the chimes continue was answered by a threat of legal action.

Officials told the 52 councillors they faced legal and financial losses which would force them into civic exile.

Yesterday, market day in the home of the Laurel and Hardy Museum, produced an unanimous verdict against the sound of silence.

Surrounded by a potty and stone hot-water bottles once owned by Stan Laurel's grandfather, the irascible clock-winder Joe Metcalfe, Mr Cubin said: "I think it's absolutely diabolical that somebody who came in here for a holiday cottage in Ulverston can ruin the delight that people have had for 150 years."

"I lived for 22 years in King Street, virtually under the clock, and it never bothered me, and it didn't bother any of my neighbours."

Mr Metcalfe, sometimes assisted by his grandson, had wound the clock every day, before it was converted to electricity, Mr Cubin said.

The town's Mayor, Dave Miller, was disgusted. "The only time we've had complaints was when it was broken down and people said: 'When are you going to fix it?'" He felt the legal challenge should have been contested. People had promised him their support, including help with paying fines. Mr Miller forecast continuing political resistance.

Major's article pressures IRA

David Starrock and Patrick Wintour

PRESSURE on the IRA to restore its ceasefire increased last night after the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, and the SDLP leader, John Hume, welcomed John Major's assertion that next month's all-party talks should go ahead without the issue of arms decommissioning blocking negotiations.

Mr Major's remarks in the Irish Times, although deliberately equivocal, were a clear attempt to persuade the IRA that talks on June 10 will be meaningful and to justify its renewing its ceasefire, the precondition for Sinn Fein involvement in the talks.

They reflect agreement in the Northern Ireland Cabinet sub-committee meeting yesterday that the IRA can be wooed back into the peace process by offering a parallel strand of all-party talks under an independent chairmanship on the issue of decommissioning. The proposal represents a compromise within the Cabinet designed to win over Sinn Fein without alienating mainstream Unionist opinion led by David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists.

It is still not clear to what extent ministers will insist that weapons are actually handed over in exchange for political progress in the parallel talks. Mr Trimble is openly conceding that a weapons hand-over need not occur at the start of the talks, but is still seeking assurances that they will occur alongside the talks, something the IRA has always opposed.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, gave Mr Major's article a mixed response. He said that the Prime Minister appeared to be making "a positive aspirational nod" towards resolving the deadlock over IRA weaponry, "but he doesn't tell us how it is going to be accomplished". He

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Cluster of childhood leukaemia cases in water pollution town

Geoffrey Gibbs

A PUBLIC health inquiry has been launched in Cornwall following the discovery of a cluster of childhood leukaemia cases in one class at a secondary school in Camelford, the town at the centre of a major water pollution incident eight years ago.

Three teenagers at the Sir James Smith's Community School have been diagnosed as having the disease since autumn. The two boys and one girl, all aged about 14, attended the same primary school in the town. One of the children died in January.

Immediate action is being taken to investigate what the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority described as an unexpected and remarkably unusual group of cases. It said the number of childhood cases of leukaemia in the county would vary between three and nine a year.

Letters were being sent to parents or guardians of all 643 children at the school last night to reassure them about the steps being taken to investigate the case. The headteacher, Angela Perlmutter, said pupils in the affected tutor group were being offered blood tests.

David Miles, the health authority's director of public health, said yesterday that the most recent case at the school had come to light only last week. He said the authority would investigate whether there was

any link with radon gas emissions or with the 1988 water pollution incident at Camelford, in which 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate were accidentally dumped into a tank at a treatment works near the town. He did not think either was a likely cause of the exceptional cluster.

Where chemicals had been associated with cases of cancer they had tended to be organic whereas the chemicals in the Camelford pollution had been inorganic, Dr Miles said. But expert advice was being sought from the Department of Health on the 1988 incident and other aspects of clusters of specific diseases.

He said the authority had been monitoring hospital admissions for patients in the area since 1988 but no particular trends had emerged. "As a further precaution we have asked the school to investigate the outcome of radon level tests, but again I believe this to be an unlikely factor. We are working very closely with the school."

Two of the children at Sir James's were diagnosed as having the disease last autumn. One died in January but the second child and the latest sufferer are receiving chemotherapy at the Trelliske hospital, Truro, and are said to be making good progress.

Dr Miles said the school's deputy head, Roger Kitching, said the mothers of all three children were living in the Camelford area at the time of the children's birth and the children had attended the same junior school.

Spanking advocates like California Assemblyman Mickey Conroy laugh off "ivory tower" studies showing that corporal punishment only deepens the incorrigibility of the young — after all, he was paddled as a boy himself and look how he turned out.

Barbara Ehrenreich, page 9

and 4pc
jes
alais



Chirac's spirits soar as resurgent estate shows the way

Erlend Clouston follows French cavalcade to Easterhouse

A Gallie kiss for a pupil at St Leonard's school, Easterhouse, and (top right) estate residents bid the French president adieu. PHOTOGRAPHS: MURDO MACLEOD

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MANY unkind words have been spoken about the Anglomaraigion of Easterhouse, as the bilingual briefing referred to it, but yesterday an ebullient Frenchman in an olive suit put a different gloss on Glasgow's best-known housing estate.

For an hour Jacques Chirac shared pavements with some of Britain's most deprived citizens and emerged looking as if he had won the lottery.

It was a two-way trade: Easterhouse, which is pioneering community initiatives, would let Mr Chirac in on secrets that he could apply to his own rundown suburbs; in return, the 40,000-resident estate would benefit from the credibility that the presidential mission bestowed.

There was some dissidence about the second half of the equation. By the time the car bearing the Prince of Wales and his guest had swept up to Bishopscloch Hall, only one tricolour and 200 bystanders were on display. Cynicism about Mr Chirac's motives and the cleansing department's burst of energy was compounded by butcher Tommy Boyle's handouts of Scottish beefburgers in protest at Europe's reaction to BSE.

Mr Chirac had his mind on another BSE, le business savoir-faire d'Easterhouse. Outside the community centre he was introduced to entrepreneurs who, aided by the Prince's Trust, have

between them taken about 10 of the area's 8,800 unemployed off the dole.

Garry Tibbitt and Michael Richford, manufacturer of electronic testing equipment, emphasised to the President the importance of advertising the existence of any Trust Chirac.

At the core of Easterhouse's regeneration lies the work of eight housing co-operatives, which are refurbishing 16 per cent of the estate's 16,500 homes, and a unique insistence on grassroots involvement in every project of the Greater Easterhouse Initiative.

Mr Chirac was advised by representatives of the Greater Easterhouse Community Empowerment Project that his country's fractions would remain so without well-supported neighbourhood forums.

The cavalcade disappeared into St Leonard's Secondary School where Prince Charles's money will help to fund after-school learning sessions. Only 4 per cent of Easterhouse school leavers move on to higher education, compared with 30 per cent on average nationally.

The exuberant Mr Chirac briefed the French media on the good ideas he was taking back to Paris. "I was particularly impressed at the spirit of the children," he said. This will have cheered Marion Keogh, director of the Greater Easterhouse Initiative, who knows that 81 per cent of the estate's youngsters qualify for clothing grants.

Conspiracy allegation against PCs 'blown apart'

Martin Wainwright

ALLEGATIONS of a police perjury conspiracy over claims of sexual harassment by a young woman officer were dismissed as "completely blown apart" by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Charges that a group of male officers held a secret meeting to agree a series of lies were described by the chairman of the hearing at Leeds as lacking any evidence.

His intervention followed details by the West Yorkshire officers that they had sexually taunted PC Karen Wade, aged 27, and invited a dazed glue sniffer to have sex with her in the back of a police van. Police tutor PC Dean Mountain, 30, told the hearing: "She has made it all up."

Another constable on the eight-officer patrol which arrested the glue sniffer said he would have heard the alleged obscene suggestions if Mr Mountain had made them. PC Robin Schofield told the tribunal: "That sort of behaviour disgusts me. If it had happened I would have intervened and told Dean Mountain to shut up."

Mr Schofield was challenged by Maureen Baker, representing Ms Wade, who accused him of fixing his denial with colleagues before action was taken by West Yorkshire's complaints department.

But the chairman, Tony Simpson, interrupted her to say that disciplinary officers had arrived without warning at Holbeck police station, where the men and Ms Wade were based. They had taken officers away individually for questioning specifically so that they could not agree a story.

Your conspiracy theory is blown apart and there is no evidence to prove the collaboration you are suggesting. The hearing continues today.

RAF technician posted away after pregnancy wins £10,000

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence could face fresh compensation claims following an award yesterday to a former RAF technician who returned to work from maternity leave to find herself posted 200 miles away.

An industrial tribunal in Norwich awarded Caroline Vine, aged 27, £10,000, saying she would not have been moved had she been a man. Mrs Vine was servicing Jaguar aircraft at RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, when she became pregnant and her post was filled by a man.

On returning, she was offered the choice of either St Athan, south Wales, or Lossiemouth, in north Scotland. She took the Welsh posting, but left behind her husband, who also worked at Coltishall, and her 14-week-old son. The separation became too much, and she left the RAF last year — paying a £350 penalty for breaching her 12-year contract.

The tribunal was told by the RAF that she had known she had no guarantee of staying in her post and that the RAF's needs would have to take precedence. But afterwards ministry officials were more conciliatory, suggesting the "general policy is to try to accommodate personal wishes as far as possible".

The tribunal chairman said: "If Mrs Vine had not been a woman and had not become pregnant she would not have been posted."

The ministry said it would take legal advice on the decision's implications, including the possibility of an appeal. It has had to pay millions of pounds to women found to have been sacked illegally because they became pregnant.

Several hundred servicewomen become pregnant each year, and it was admitted in Norwich that one in three RAF mothers were posted away after maternity leave.

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A grim fantasy that led to boy's murder

Duncan Campbell, Christopher Elliott and Owen Bowcott on how a prison officer's memory of a therapy session led to the arrest of two paedophile killers



Daniel Handley, who was kidnapped and murdered; the cab office where he was imprisoned and assaulted; and his funeral



PHOTOGRAPH (top right) TIM DICKSON

THE group therapy session for sex offenders in the special annex of Wormwood Scrubs prison listened as Timothy Mors outlined his favourite fantasy. He wanted to pluck a blond boy, aged between eight and 13, from the street, take him somewhere quiet, bugger him, strangle him and then dispose of his body.

Edward Cook, the prison officer co-ordinating the meeting for those dismissed as "nonces" by their fellow-inmates, recalled Timothy Mors's words long after he had been released from his sentence for indecency. It was his memory of that grim fantasy that finally led to the imprisonment of Mors and his fellow-murderer, Brett Tyler, at the Old Bailey yesterday for the murder of Daniel Handley.

Cook had long feared that allowing sex offenders to share cells and grouping together Rule 43 inmates — sex offenders, informers and

ex-police officers who are separated from other prisoners for their own safety — could reinforce their obsessions. "I always worried about what was happening on the landings in the evenings outside the therapy sessions," he said later.

"Even in the therapy session you never really get through to the paedophile. He always thinks he is right." A consultant psychiatrist, who had briefly taken Mors on as a patient, had also warned police of the ex-prisoner's dark desires.

Tyler was the perfect partner for Mors, both as an accomplice and a lover. Abandoned by his mother as a baby, he was sent to Barnardo's, sexually assaulted at four before returning to his home three years later when his father remarried. He was sexually experienced by the age of 12, when he and a friend had sex on a fishing expedition, in trouble with the police after being found with a loaded air rifle as a teenager

and jailed for four years for attempted buggery and gross indecency in 1966.

In the interim he had survived on odd jobs as a waiter, dishwasher and driver, lying about his catering qualifications to get jobs and hanging about with rent boys in Soho. He was initially impressed by Mors's self-confidence.

Mors had also been abused as a child and had dabbled in burglary as a teenager before

serving briefly in the Royal Corps of Transport. In 1968 he was jailed for seven years, reduced to five on appeal, for bugging nine-year-old twins and an 11-year-old boy. He was the stronger character and suggested that he and Tyler team up when they left prison.

This they did, working for Guy's Care minicab firm in Camberwell, south London, a company owned by David

Guttridge, 53, a chemical engineer, whom both had met inside and who had fallen in love with Mors.

Guttridge was serving a seven year sentence for sexually abusing his 10-year-old son but decided to try to deal with his behaviour. When he left prison he sought psychiatric help and never re-offended. His attempts to persuade Mors to do the same were in vain. Guttridge also owned a florist's in Bristol where Mors worked during the week. Both would spend the weekends at the cab firm.

Divers went into the nearest docks, flooded gasometers, and the rowing boat lake. By the following weekend, the police had started to dig up the garden of the Handley home, an "elimination procedure" as the police described it at the time.

It was another six months, however, before the remains of Daniel were found in a shallow grave near the Woodlands golf club at Bradley

and into a layby where they knotted a rope. "Are you going to kill me?" asked Daniel. They told him they were not but Mors made a noose round his neck and told Tyler to help him. Tyler, or so he claimed later, apologised to the boy while helping pull the rope tight. They fell his pulse. He was dead. It took them nearly four hours to dig a grave in the hard ground.

On 30 May last year,



Timothy Mors . . . abused as a child and had dabbled in burglary as a teenager. In 1985 he was jailed for seven years, reduced to five on appeal, for buggery. He suggested that he and Tyler team up when they left prison.



Brett Tyler . . . the perfect partner for Mors. Abandoned by his mother as a baby, he was sent to Barnardo's, and sexually assaulted at four before returning to his home three years later when his father remarried

While Mors was held in London, refusing to admit his guilt on tape, police flew out to question Tyler in the Philippines where he agreed to be interviewed. He recounted in a low voice as he smoked Marlboro how they had abducted and killed Daniel.

Shortly afterwards, he was deported as an undesirable alien on a plane with the British detectives. On his return to Britain, in late June 1995, he was charged with Daniel's murder, a charge he continued to fight throughout the trial.

Although media coverage may suggest such killings are increasing, it is not so. The clear-up rate for sex crimes involving children also continues to improve. More than 90 per cent of all gross indecency offences involving children are solved. In the latest annual figures, for 1994, there were 28 homicides in the 5 to 16 age group, fewer than in 1984 (32) or 1985 (42). Children between Bristol and London. By a process of elimination it was discovered that Mors and Guttridge had a home in Bradley Stoke close to where the body was unearthed. Their names went straight to the top of the suspects' list.

When Guttridge was approached, he confessed that he had been waiting for the police to knock and told them that Tyler and Mors were the killers. Mors had made the chilling remark "one fuck what a waste" when discussing the murder. It emerged that both had fled to the Philippines with Guttridge's help. But the pair fell out there and Mors returned home.

Guttridge told the police where they would find him at an address in Rotherhithe, south London. He also told them where Tyler was hiding in the Philippines with his Filipino lover and two chil-

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But on the first Sunday afternoon in October 1994 they resolved to fulfil their fantasy. Their victim was a familiar figure in Beckton, east London. A cheerful nine-year-old with his hair sometimes in a pony-tail, spinning around in a red roller-suit on his silver BMX bike or hopping on to one of the local buses. For a few pence, he would help people load their shopping into their cars at the local Asda.

Daniel's home was with his mother, Maxine Williams, aged 54, and her new boyfriend, Alexander Joseph, aged 21, in one a cul de sac, Lobelia Close. But his home life was far from ideal: one detective described his house as a tip. Neighbours say that Daniel would often go round to a friend's house for a bath and a hot meal.

When Daniel Handley disappeared there had, at first, been no panic. But when he had not returned by nightfall, his mother started to fear the worst. At 11pm he was reported missing.

About 250 police searched the area with a blown-up photo of the boy, asking everyone for a last sighting.

Stoke, Bristol. As the police investigation developed, it had become clear that two men had approached Daniel on the day he disappeared. They had been seen standing by the open door of a silver or grey car. One had been showing Daniel a map while the other had been sitting in the car.

The man was Mors and Tyler. Once Daniel had been pulled into the car, they had driven to the flat above the minicab office in Camberwell. There they took him upstairs and told him to undress, trying to get him to drink a vodka. Daniel said he did not want to take part because he had already done it once, did not like it and had been "blamed" for it.

After they had finished sexually abusing him — and filming themselves as they did — they promised they would take him home. But Tyler went to pick up a spade and pitchfork to dig a grave from his unknown father's house in east London. Daniel slept on the floor of the car, periodically waking up to ask if they were home yet.

On the way to Bristol, they pulled off the M4 motorway

following an appeal on the BBC Crime Watch programme, the investigation began to fall into place. The broadcast triggered memories for Edward Cook and the consultant psychiatrist.

The police had already been looking at known paedophiles, trying to find a link between Bristol and London. By a process of elimination it was discovered that Mors and Guttridge had a home in Bradley Stoke close to where the body was unearthed. Their names went straight to the top of the suspects' list.

When Guttridge was approached, he confessed that he had been waiting for the police to knock and told them that Tyler and Mors were the killers. Mors had made the chilling remark "one fuck what a waste" when discussing the murder. It emerged that both had fled to the Philippines with Guttridge's help. But the pair fell out there and Mors returned home.

Guttridge told the police where they would find him at an address in Rotherhithe, south London. He also told them where Tyler was hiding in the Philippines with his Filipino lover and two chil-

Attempts are meanwhile being made to curtail the activities of paedophiles abroad, particularly in the Philippines and Thailand through the Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill and stricter law enforcement within those two countries. This has led to some "sex tourists" moving to India and Cambodia. The UN Children's Fund believes that there are as many as 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines.

Mors and Tyler are unlikely to find themselves in the same group again. But they can expect to be shunned by fellow-inmates who may deal with "nonces" by pouring boiling water over them or relieving themselves in their food.

Perversion without cure

Christopher Elliott meets the head of a treatment team for sex offenders which seeks to help them control their behaviour

THERE are more serious sex offenders in Grendon prison than at any other place in the country. It is a sink of sexual perversion, with a team of psychiatrists trying to help inmates control and modify their behaviour, for there is no "cure".

It is to Grendon where Brett Tyler and Timothy Mors may be sent, after their sentence for the murder of Daniel Handley, aged 9.

Peter Lewis is in charge of journeying into these men's psyches, to find out what leads them to commit these crimes.

As clinical director of Grendon he runs a treatment regime for 40 prisoners on G wing, which exclusively houses sex offenders. A further 20 are spread throughout the rest of the jail, which houses a total of 220 category B prisoners in the gently undulating Buckinghamshire

countrywide. Paedophiles are among the offenders under his care.

"The main thrust of our treatment is in the therapeutic community that adheres to certain principles developed in the latter part of the war.

"This gives people a chance to express themselves in an atmosphere that tolerates degrees of behaviour which would under other circumstances be deemed inappropriate.

"We allow people to manifest in front of staff and other inmates the characteristic behaviour which shows their true personality and is therefore available for discussion. It is that discussion which is the reformative experience rather than the deformative ones they have received in their early upbringing."

The paedophile he sees are of all ages and come from all socio-economic groups. One of the most enduring charac-

teristics of paedophiles was that they experienced an exposure to sex at an early age and an inappropriate time.

Paedophilia manifested itself not only as an obsessive condition; many men saw it as their true occupation rather than their stated job or profession. Of its nature it required secrecy and it was fuelled by fantasy as in the case of Mors and Tyler, who conceived their plan of abduction in prison, the expression of which during a group therapy session led to their arrest when a prison officer remembered it.

"Pornography is the thing that amplifies and jacks it all up, that's how they get their maintenance dose . . . The capacity to think up a fantasy in itself becomes a pre-occupation. They get conceptual sexual arousal which is a very positive reinforcer of their condition. The preliminary fantasy is paid off by the reward.

"What may also happen is that the fantasy becomes less effective. Therefore they have to elaborate it, maybe to the extent of snuff movies. We have to interrupt that rein-

forcement of paedophilic fantasy . . .

"Paedophiles can be corrected. They have to learn how to manage their sexuality. We have to give them some sort of emotional understanding that what they are doing to a child is harmful. They often express regret that they have been caught but can they express remorse?"

Sex offenders account for between 8 to 9 per cent of all those within the prison system.

While the number of murders of children have gone down, there is evidence, according to Dr Lewis and his colleagues, that the incidence of paedophilia is rising.

Ezz Shaban, a psychiatrist at Grendon for three years, believes that many of the reasons lie in post-war social and cultural change. "Most offences are committed by stepfathers. However, there are also signs that the 1960s' permissiveness created an expectation of sexual freedoms. There are a lot of inadequate men who are not being able to actualise these sexual freedoms and it's easier to achieve it with a child."

Tension as Gibraltar votes

Anger and vitriol have soured the hustings, writes Adela Gooch

THE 18,000 voters of Gibraltar went to the polls yesterday fearful of violence and of a future that looks more uncertain than ever.

"It's quiet enough now, but I'm not so sure what will happen after the election," said a policeman outside a polling booth.

The colony's security services were taking precautions in case disturbances broke out on election night. There have been fights at a number of campaign events, and much vitriol.

Joe Bossano, the incumbent chief minister, accused his opponent, Peter Caruana of the Gibraltar Socialist Democrats, of being "a fascist like Aznar".

José María Aznar, Spain's new conservative prime minister, has increased tension in Gibraltar by taking a strong line on Spain's demand for the territory to be returned to its control.

If Mr Bossano is defeated, many Gibraltarians fear a backlash from the "Winston boys" who smuggle drugs and tobacco across the strait between Morocco and Spain. They believe Mr Bossano will be less harsh on smuggling than Mr Caruana.

"I don't ever remember such a tense campaign," said one resident. "People are checking to see which party's flag is flying from each window. That never used to happen."

Poor relations with Spain and Britain, the economy and smuggling are the issues which drove Gibraltarians to vote in record numbers yesterday.

A last-minute effort by Mr Bossano's Socialist Labour Party, running on a tough "give Spain no hope" message, narrowed the gap in the polls with the Social Democrats, who want talks with Spain.

Nevertheless, the polls suggest the Social Democrats will have a 3 to 10 per cent advantage.

Housing estates near the border were once solid Bossano territory. Yesterday the red and white Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party flag still hung from many windows, but voters were divided. The divisions reflect age and social class.

Members of one family remained loyal to Mr Bossano, except for the daughter. "I think Gibraltar needs a change," she said.

Loyalists believe that only Mr Bossano can stand up to Spain. "I prefer what I've got to what might come," said one woman, Dom Abas. "I remember the dove riots when people like the Social Democrats tried to sell us out to Spain before."

But others think Mr Bossano's play for self-determination has gone too far.

"He's a good man but he thinks we can go it alone without Spain or Britain, and that's just unrealistic," one voter said.

If the poll forecasts are confirmed, the new chief minister may not necessarily be the Social Democrat leader but Peter Montegrifo, a 36-year-old lawyer who was educated at the local comprehensive.



Sealed with a kiss... A supporter greets the chief minister Joe Bossano on the campaign trail. PHOTOGRAPH: JULIO MUNOZ

Anger at 'racist' tourism plan

Our correspondent in Madrid

A COUNCILLOR in the Grand Canary capital, Las Palmas, has launched a scheme to boost tourism by moving tramps, drug addicts and other "social misfits" from the town centre to a new purpose-built "city for the poor".

But the plan has drawn strong opposition from councillors who consider it "racist and brutally insensitive". Rafael Vines, the conserva-

tive councillor in charge of social welfare for the capital, described his proposal as a fitting solution to the city's homelessness problem and a way of Las Palmas recovering its glamour.

Many disagree, however. "It is like going back to the vagrancy laws of the middle ages," said Rafael de Saja, of the regional government.

The councillor's scheme has not been well received by the new Popular Party-led government in Madrid, which hastened to disassociate itself altogether yesterday.

World news in brief

Karadzic rule illegitimate, says his PM

THE Bosnian Serb prime minister, Rajko Kasagic, denounced Radovan Karadzic as an "illegitimate president leading our people into ruin" yesterday after Mr Karadzic tried to sack him.

The attack reinforced international pressure building up for the Serb leader's swift extradition for trial by the UN war crimes tribunal in the Hague, which has indicted him twice.

Nato's political and military chiefs demonstrated their support for Mr Kasagic in Banja Luka before travelling to Belgrade to seek Mr Karadzic's surrender from the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr Kasagic said he expected to be replaced quickly by the Bosnian Serb parliament but would remain in office until it ratified his dismissal. "With my discharge, the entire government is breaking down," he warned.

Political sources said the rift between Mr Kasagic's moderates in Banja Luka and the hardliners gathered around Mr Karadzic in Pale was now too public to be repaired. — Reuter

Clinton rejects ban on 'dumb' landmines

AFTER months of internal debate, President Bill Clinton has decided to limit the kinds of landmines in the US arsenal but will not ban them outright, the White House said yesterday.

Mr Clinton has directed the armed forces to discontinue the use of "dumb" landmines — those that do not deactivate within a set time — and will

call for international negotiations on a total ban after 2001. But the dumb mines will continue to be used in Korea and for training, the spokesman said.

Mr Clinton's decision is sure to stir controversy in Congress and in some quarters of the defence establishment. Some military experts, like the retired Gulf war com-

mander Norman Schwarzkopf, favour an immediate unilateral landmine ban. The spokesman said the decision reflected "the president's responsibility both to those who have been victims of these landmines, but also to people who serve their country in dangerous places like the (Korean) DMZ." — Reuter

Prodi set to be Italian PM

PRESIDENT Oscar Luigi Scalfaro summoned the Italian centre-left leader Romano Prodi to his office yesterday and was expected to ask him to form a new government.

Mr Prodi, whose Olive Tree alliance won last month's general election, will be the first leader to form a government in Italy that includes the left for nearly 50 years.

He has said he will move fast to form a cabinet, probably by the weekend. It is expected to include the outgoing prime minister, Lamberto Dini, as foreign minister and the former prime minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi as treasury minister. — Reuter

Russia spy row deal 'imminent'

A FACE-SAVING agreement on an end to the Anglo-Russian spying row may be imminent, British officials indicated last night, as Moscow insisted that a decision on expulsions had been taken and communicated "through

normal diplomatic channels", writes Ian Black. Russia's security service had demanded that nine British diplomats leave Moscow after a Russian official was caught spying. But the Foreign Office threatened retaliation.

President may ignore poll

People in the Dominican Republic yesterday voted on who will replace long-time leader Joaquín Balaguer, but the president showed signs he may not step down.

He is not running for the first time since 1986, but his reinstatement this week of a retired general accused of human rights violations prompted the leading candidate, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, to warn that the president would stay on at the slightest pretext. — AP

British and American paratroopers

Tutsis killed About 10 people, believed to be Rwandan Tutsis, were killed, 30 were wounded, and 60 went missing in an attack on a monastery at Mokotos in eastern Zaire, the Red Cross said yesterday. Hutus were blamed. — Reuter.

Students clash

Black and white students fought each other in running battles at Pretoria Technikon polytechnic yesterday. The violence erupted over black grievances concerning high fees and stiff entrance requirements. — Reuter.

Jaffna 'falls'

Sri Lanka's military said yesterday it controls the entire northern Jaffna peninsula. Tamil separatists' would-be homeland. — Reuter.

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How better to show a world in technological turmoil than with motorbikes roaring like bottled files inside a huge see-through globe? Or to suggest human fragility than with sex on a trapeze?

Review page 8

Sherlock's own French connection

France has claimed a top sleuth, reports Paul Webster

THE clues are so thick on the ground that even Dr Watson would have to exclaim: "Elementary, mon cher Holmes, you have the blood, the brains and the flair of a Frenchman."

For the next three months, the French Sherlock Holmes Society will provide evidence from a dozen adventures to prove that the Baker Street sleuth would be several volumes short of an opus without his French ancestry and a fascination for Gallic art and science.

At the opening of an exhibition in Paris devoted to Holmes's split loyalty, members of the society even made the bizarre claim that they had discovered a grave in the French capital where they believe the fictional character was secretly buried in 1877.

Thierry Saint-Joanis, the society's chairman, gave a guided tour yesterday through the scenes of Holmes's cross-channel connections which have been recreated at the Bilpo, the library of police literature. "It was Sherlock Holmes himself who revealed his debt to his French forebears in *The Greek Interpreter*," Mr Saint-Joanis said.

"He told Watson that his grandmother was the sister of Horace Vernet, the French painter. As Holmes said, art can spread through the blood in the most varied ways."

Watson's reminiscences show that Holmes spoke French fluently, and dotted his conversation with French expressions. His visits to France, both for detective work and pleasure, were numerous.

"Holmes refused a knighthood but accepted the *Legion d'honneur*," Mr Saint-Joanis said.

"No thoroughbred Englishman would have done that. As far as we are concerned, Sherlock Holmes is Anglo-French."

The discovery of a tombstone engraved "SR" in Père Lachaise cemetery

may well end all speculation on where Sherlock's heart truly lies but, in the meantime, the most important elements for amateur inquiries are on show in the museum near the rue des Boulangers — Baker's Street.

A warworks Holmes sits in the recreated parlour of 221b Baker Street, his nose pointing towards displays that expose French links with stories as varied as *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Six Napoleons*.

Exhibits show how the famous detective put French police methods under the magnifying glass. Twice, in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Naval Treaty*, Holmes refers to the French detective Alphonse Bertillon, a pioneer of scientific policing. In *The Illustrious Client*, Holmes mentions an-

There is no doubt about the origins of his transfer into the Gallic conscience

other French detective beaten up in Montmartre.

There are also personal glimpses of his attachment to France. While on the run from Moriarty's murderer, Holmes takes refuge in Montpellier, the home of his ancestors. His baggage is watched by the professor's thugs at the Gare du Nord's left-luggage office.

Even if Holmes fanatics haunting Paris in Victorian costumes as part of the show fail to prove the real-life connections, there is no doubt about the origins of his transfer into the Gallic conscience.

In *The Sign of Four*, the French detective François Le Villard calls on Holmes. The Frenchman releases what Watson recalls as a "stream of superlatives" — *comp de maître, tour de force, magnifique* — before disclosing that he has translated Holmes's scientific essays into French.

As the exhibition shows, this was the first of a massive collection of France's "*Holmesologie*" which culminates in tomorrow's rechristening of the rue des Boulangers as Baker Street, complete with its own 221b.

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BJP leader takes office

But the battle goes on, writes Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

POWER rested as naturally on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's shoulders as his customary saffron shawl after the Bharatiya Janata Party leader was sworn in as India's prime minister yesterday.

Beneath the chandeliers of the presidential palace, Mr Vajpayee took his oath in Hindi, a sign, along with the shawl in the holy colour of Hinduism, that India was embarking on a new era with its first Hindu nationalist government.

The brief ceremony, which included the swearing-in of 11 cabinet ministers, was boycotted by politicians from the National Front-Left Front alliance and regional parties.

The alliance, which has said it was cheated out of power, has vowed to bring down Mr Vajpayee's minority government in a confidence vote which must be held by May 31. The Congress party, which lost nearly half its seats in the general election earlier this month, yesterday reaffirmed that it too would vote against Mr Vajpayee.

Ten of the cabinet ministers are from Mr Vajpayee's BJP, and one is from the more extreme Shiv Sena Party, with which the party is in a ruling coalition in the western state of Maharashtra. In a sign that — in public at least — the BJP would like to move away from its upper caste Hindu chauvinist reputation, the cabinet includes a Muslim, a Sikh, and a member of India's tribal minority.

The Muslim, Sikander Bakht, was named minister of human resources and development when the first portfolio allocations were announced by a BJP official, Madan Lal Khurana.

Other appointments included Jaswant Singh as finance minister, Murli Manohar Joshi — a hardline former party president — as home minister, and Sushma Swaraj — BJP's spokeswoman — as information and broadcasting minister. The former journalist and rising star of the party Pramod Mahajan was named defence and parliamentary affairs minister.

Mr Vajpayee will be both prime and foreign minister. There had been some wrangling over the home ministry, which Mr Vajpayee wanted to give to Mr Bakht, party sources said.

Despite the deep bitterness with which his government was installed, Mr Vajpayee appeared untroubled. "If we are not able to prove our majority by May 31 then we will withdraw ourselves and say we can't run the government, but we will strive hard to prove our majority," he told a meeting of party activists at BJP headquarters last night.

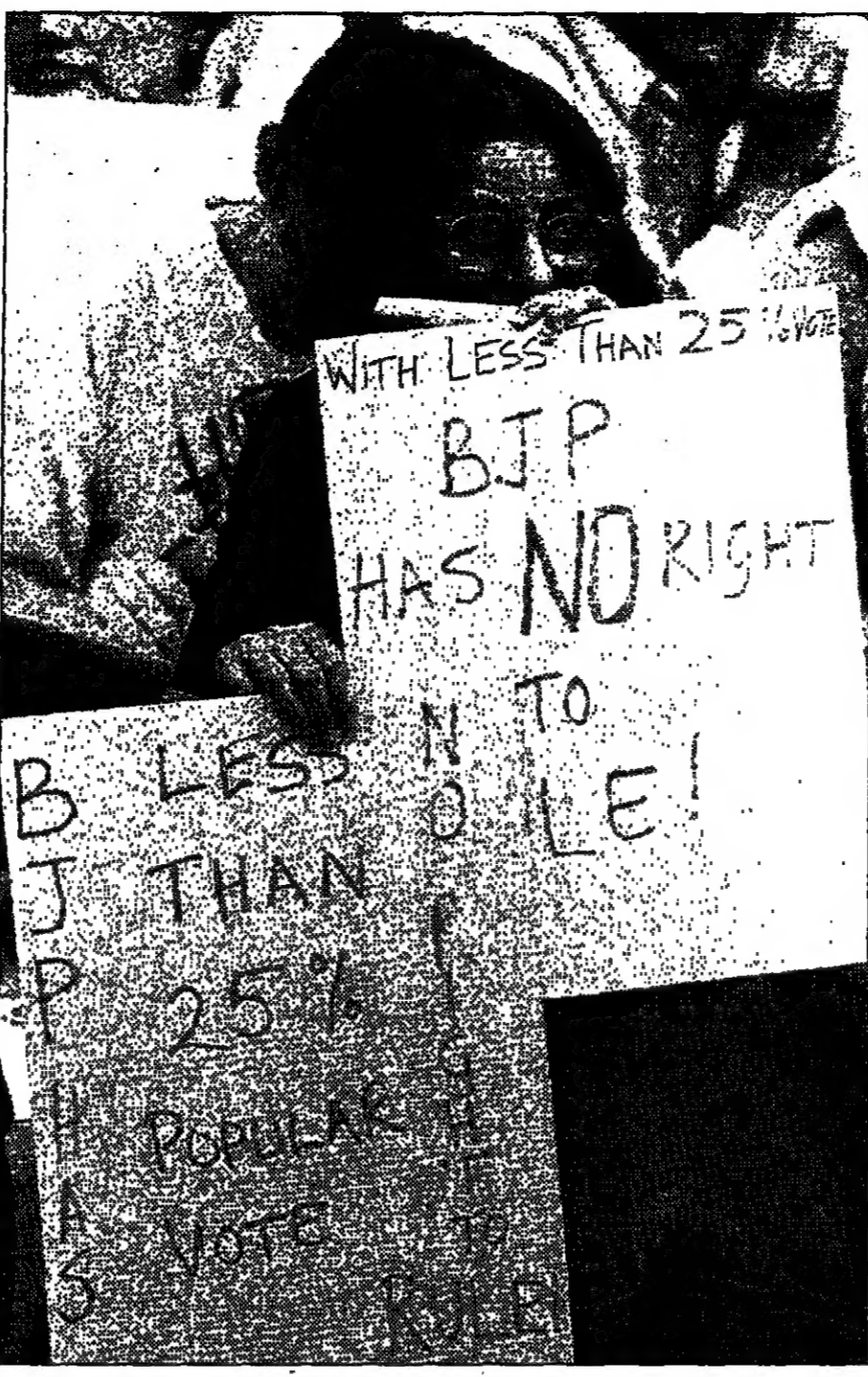
But the Shiv Sena leader, Bal Thackeray, has threatened to unleash his street activists in the event of defeat.

Mr Vajpayee's reign may be short-lived, but the party has come a long way from the fringe group it was a decade ago.

In Calcutta, the Indian Chamber of Commerce said it trusted that a BJP government would continue economic reforms. BJP central office in New Delhi said it had been besieged by requests for its manifesto, and had handed out copies to 23 embassies.

BJP leaders were still trying to get used to their new status. A minister revealed that Mr Vajpayee had been shocked by the speed with which the president, Shankar Dayal Sharma, called on him to form a government.

The minister said a junior Mr Sharma summoned a baffled Mr Vajpayee on Wednesday and asked "kya hai?" — what's up? — before handing over the paper with the time of the swearing-in already filled in.



Poster campaign... Protestors in New Delhi make their feelings about the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party known yesterday

Alarm as China charts an ocean takeover

China has agreed to abide by international law in the South China Sea — but has done so in a provocative manner which is likely to cause alarm.

The area under Chinese jurisdiction will be "expanded", Beijing said yesterday, by nearly 1 million square miles. It also promised "better protection" for China's island resources, including the Spratly Islands, to which six countries have claims.

The Chinese statement announced agreement by the standing committee of parliament to abide by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is expected to be ratified formally next month. The move has been welcomed by South-East Asian countries because the convention provides for international arbitration — which China has previously rejected.

Beijing's claim yesterday to be "expanding" its control of the sea may be designed to satisfy domestic hardliners. Their influence was shown in the recent Taiwan Strait crisis, when army leaders pressed for tougher action during the Taiwan presidential elections.

Defence of the Xisha (Paracels) and Nansha (Spratlys) features prominently in Chinese propaganda. Chinese garrisons are praised for showing patriotism "as deep as the South China Sea".

The Law of the Sea convention provides a limit of 12 nautical miles to territorial waters: it also establishes a 200-mile exclusive economic zone off a nation's coasts, although this is open to international passage, overflight and laying pipelines.

In a separate dispute, China, Taiwan and Japan claim possession of the Senkaku Islands, about 250 miles west of Okinawa.

Chinese intentions have always been hard to read. Last year China occupied a reef disputed with the Philippines and appeared to challenge Indonesia.

But Beijing then agreed to refer the South China Sea question to a meeting of officials of the Association of South-East Asian Nations next month.

Chinese maps invariably show a U-shaped dotted line, dating from the Nationalist regime before the 1949 Communist victory, which encloses the entire South China Sea. This often causes alarm by seeming to suggest that China claims the entire sea as its territorial waters.

But Beijing statements have not been consistent and some of the confusion may be deliberate. The test of China's adherence to the convention will be whether Beijing accepts international arbitration when the next dispute occurs.

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China, Vietnam and Taiwan claim all the Spratly Islands, while some are claimed by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. At present 37 islands in the centre of the archipelago are held by Vietnam, eight by the Philippines and seven by China.

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Mongolia drafts fire plan

Mongolia's leaders met yesterday to hammer out plans to fight dozens of fires that have ravaged the country and threaten the capital Ulan Bator, officials said.

The governors of 21 provinces gathered in the capital to report on the progress of the fires that have swept across much of Mongolia during the past month.

More than 25 fires are raging out of control, while fire breaks had contained dozens of other blazes, civil defence officials said.

Soldiers and firefighters have contained a blaze 19 miles from Ulan Bator, but the fire continues to smoulder, blanketing the capital in smoke. About 500 soldiers and 350 firefighters armed with only shovels and a few hoses of water are battling the blaze, a police officer said.

Officials warned that high winds could easily spark new flames which could endanger the capital.

The fire is under control at the moment," the police officer said. "But one windy day could make the flames surge back. Whatever the situation, we are fighting to keep the blaze from reaching

Mount Bogdo" — a peak which flanks Ulan Bator to the south.

Rain has extinguished another blaze about 28 miles from the capital, but seven other fires are raging out of control in central provinces, which surrounds Ulan Bator, officials said.

Fires have ravaged huge swaths of Mongolia's woods and steppes during the last month, killing 17 people, injuring 62 and destroying more than 31,000 sq miles of forest and pastureland.

Officials said the fires had caused an estimated \$1.2 billion in damage to an already frail economy.

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London falls into line

The IRA must now reply with a new ceasefire

IF THE IRA doubted (as it certainly did) whether the British government was serious about the all-party Northern Ireland talks planned for June 10, John Major has now at last made quite clear that it is. The Prime Minister's article in yesterday's Irish Times leaves a number of things blurred, and the cautious reactions to it have to be judged against the virulent tradition of republican suspicion about British truthfulness. But it is unambiguous on the central question. London will not now stall the talks over the issue of weapons decommissioning.

This is a genuinely welcome change from the British position last year. Fifteen months ago, Sir Patrick Mayhew set out a precondition for all-party talks which became known in Ulster-speak as Washington Three. It demanded "the actual decommissioning of some arms as a tangible confidence-building measure". That precondition created an impasse, and arguably helped to provoke the end of the IRA ceasefire. It has taken most of this year to extricate Britain from its self-created hole, but Mr Major's article is a vital step in completing that process. Decommissioning, it says, must be "addressed at the beginning of the talks" and the Mitchell Report's recommendations take forward. But this must be done, says a crucial phrase in the article, "without blocking the negotiations".

This is not the end of all discussion on the subject. But it unquestionably aligns the British with the Irish government in seeking to place decommissioning into a separate but parallel talks process, the so-called "fourth strand". It also means that, once the May 30 elections have taken place, the two governments will be back on the track of using the Mitchell Report as the basis for future progress. Decommissioning is no longer a precondition. The way now lies clear for substantive discussion on all

issues. The agenda is open, says Mr Major's article, and Britain is committed to "a genuine and serious effort to reach a comprehensive settlement covering all the issues of concern and acceptable to all concerned."

At the start of this week the Sinn Féin hierarchy asked for reassurances from Mr Major himself that the talks would be comprehensive and unencumbered by preconditions. Within days, Mr Major has given a public and positive answer. There are still preconditions, above all the requirement for the IRA to resume its ceasefire, but the road is open on the basis which Irish nationalists and republicans alike (and others too) have long advocated. It would be a terrible missed opportunity for the IRA not to respond with a fresh ceasefire. It is surely now the IRA's turn.

Mr Major has removed one blockage. It is necessary to understand that there may yet be others. The IRA may not announce a ceasefire at all. Or they may do so on ambiguous terms. Mr Major's article asks for "unequivocal restoration". Experience warns that people who want to get bogged down in disputing whether something is unequivocal or not may easily do so. Then there is the substantial matter of Sinn Féin's acceptance of the Mitchell Report's six principles of non-violence and commitment to democracy. Mr Major's article says all participants in the talks "must be able to show" their commitment to the principles. It is neither clear nor agreed what the appropriate proof of that might be.

Mr Major has got the peace process back to where it should have been in January. He has not achieved fresh progress. The tone of his article yesterday was characteristically pragmatic. Yet if he wants a ceasefire and more — which he does — he also needs to be creative. Whatever else he does, Mr Major must not now rest on his oars.

A former senator from Kansas

Resignation is not enough: Bob Dole needs new ideas fast

WITH ONE bound, Bob Dole is free, but free to do what? As the pundits were quick to say yesterday in Washington, "you can only quit the Senate once." When admiration for the Republican presidential candidate's athletic leap has waned, the voters will be watching what he does and says next. A lacklustre campaign, condemned even by his own party's pollsters for being "moribund and lacking in charisma", still has to be brought back to life.

After winning the nomination two months ago, Mr Dole had returned to Congress quite deliberately, seeking to engage Bill Clinton on legislative ground. His strategy was to force the president either to yield to Republican pressure on issues such as welfare and the balanced budget — and alienate Democrats in doing so — or to stand firm and alienate middle America. It did not work that way. Mr Dole got bogged down in partisan disputes which created the impression that Congress, not the president, was holding up legislation. He was saddled with the negative image of House speaker Newt Gingrich, whose unlamented star is now plunging as fast as it once climbed. His advisers warned that he was creating the impression that Congress came first: now he has to convince the electorate that America comes first.

Mr Dole's friends have applauded his decision, comparing him variously to an unhooded falcon and a soaring eagle. Yet his reputation and experience has been so much centred in the Senate that

no one really knows if he is capable of spreading his wings. His announcement of the decision to step down fluffed the chance to spell out new ideas for the presidential campaign, though lack of a clear programme has been as much a handicap as his entanglement in Congress. The calculation now is that this will be a contest of "Dole of Kansas versus Clinton of Washington DC." There was a reference in his speech to the wisdom of the American people and the traditions of old railroad towns, yet that sort of folksiness will not readily sustain another six months of campaigning. On a more practical level, Mr Dole can no longer rely on his Senate role for cost-free promotion of his presidential candidacy. Already close to the official funding limits, he is now going to have to pay his own way.

The law allows the Republican party to publicise the cause but not the candidate.

Mr Dole's decision can be expected to produce some immediate improvement in his poll ratings, where he trailed Mr Clinton by 38 to 58 per cent. Most voters appear to believe he took the right decision — though most still think he is going to lose. Mr Dole has now pledged himself to discuss "fundamental things, consequential things, things that are real" instead of, presumably, the trivia and the inconsequential in which he has dealt up till now. Perhaps after all he has one hidden advantage — for since when were fundamental issues the essence of a presidential contest?

Curbing the car by consensus

Labour's plans suit the majority but are they radical enough?

LABOUR'S draft transport policy is less of a green paper than a Brown one — so little is there to offend the shadow chancellor's pre-electoral avoidance of tax or spending commitments. The paper, to be considered by Labour's policy forum this weekend, is marked "this is not a statement of party policy" just in case there is anything left in it to scare the chickens. There isn't, and that in a curious way may be perceived as its strength. By eschewing radical solutions — like draconian controls on cars, corporate perks and an end to road building — it won't alienate voters necessary for its implementation. Labour wants to move with the majority to reduce car congestion by consent. This means juggling with existing taxes (like the crude vehicle excise duty) to reduce congestion by shifting taxes from ownership to usage, and by penalising energy wastage and pollution. Motorway tolls are out (shame) but

local authority experiments are not.

There will be a 20-year strategy setting goals for car use, public transport, walking and cycling (a symptom of a Blair government's self-confident longevity?) embracing five year plans. The paper rejects privatisation of buses (where 25 per cent price increases have led to a fall of 25 per cent in bus use) and of the railways without committing itself to reversal. The most welcome idea is a study into prospects for a high-speed rail link from the Channel Tunnel to the northern regions and Scotland as well as London. The document quotes some mind-bending statistics (eg car travel rose by 55 per cent between 1975 and 1994 while bus travel fell 38 per cent and cycling 25 per cent) without generating confidence that these proposals would be able to do much about that let alone tame future growth of the car. Maybe the consensus just isn't ready for it.



Letters to the Editor

Domineering members

TONY WRIGHT MP is right to say that Parliament is supreme and government far too dominant (Arena, May 8). But his proposals for strengthening the select-committee system will not make Parliament significantly more effective, because the main political parties are understandably averse to giving Parliament more power in a situation in which one party forms the government and the other is waiting to do so.

What is needed is a more independent Parliament: a transfer of power from the government to the Speaker, whose independence has never been exploited. The Speaker should control the timetable for legislation, should have the power to invoke special procedures for legislation which threatens civil rights, and should be entitled to enforce the accountability of ministers. New parliamentary machinery should be introduced to include a research department to provide analytical backup for members; a department that gives the Opposition access to Civil Service expertise; and new services for visitors and schools so as to provide Bagehot's "great engine of popular instruction".

John Garrett MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR leader (May 15) echoes Labour's belief that Parliament is "too confrontational", but I think Colin Adkins's assessment (Letters, May 15) is closer to the truth: "A preponderance of career politicians and the absence of political discourse has allowed a vacuum in which infantile personality

politics can take root." In the absence of a real difference of principle, petty sniping fills the void. Labour's proposed reforms would only accelerate the move away from real debate, handing government over to the "expert" members of pre-legislative consultation committees. More confrontation, not less, is the key to a real democracy.

James Heathfield, 13 Linden Mansions, Hornsey Lane, London N6 5LF.

IT IS not that too much legislation is passed in the Houses of Parliament rather, it is the wrong legislation introduced for the wrong reasons. Government favour high-profile bills to enact the latest political fad, in the hope of winning a few votes at the next election. Bills which are seen as mundane, but which could make a valuable contribution to the framework in which business operates and real people live out their lives, are repeatedly squeezed out. Paradoxically, because these bills are often not controversial, they could be passed with little parliamentary time.

While the idea of rolling over bills from one parliamen-

tary session to the next has its attractions, it also has its dangers. A clear deadline concentrates minds and forces compromises which otherwise might drag on for years.

Cedric Hopcraft, 20 Great Brickhill Lane, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes MK17 9NQ.

MUCH was made at its Welsh conference last week of the Labour Party's wish for the Welsh Assembly to be representative of the whole of Wales and to be more than "Labour's mouthpiece".

While I am delighted that Ron Davies has made the point that the Labour Party will not own the assembly, he and his colleagues are billed to the concerns about the assembly's role.

The main weaknesses with Labour's assembly are the failure to recognise the need for it to have primary legislative ability, full financial responsibility and direct access to the EU. Only then will the assembly have adequate power and the people of Wales can be sure of proper accountability.

Dafydd Wigley MP, Plaid Cymru President, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Fleeing from the foe into the arms of the unfriendly

I AGREE with your leader (May 15) that the Vietnamese refugees should be treated humanely. Hong Kong Chinese racism is shockingly deep-seated. They view the Vietnamese as inferior, lazy, greedy and vicious.

In a city of more than six million people, are 18,000 Vietnamese, most of them locked in camps for years, really a burden in one of the most affluent cities in the world, does the cost of supporting the Vietnamese (0.3 per cent of the population) create such a severe deficit that the refugees should be kicked out?

Britain stirred up the problem by trying to divert attention away from its embarrassing low-tourism to China over Hong Kong. Hong Kong people were led to believe that their greatest and immediate threat was not from Beijing, but from the Vietnamese.

Britain, which declared Hong Kong as a first-asylum port, and the US, which created a mess in Vietnam, should shoulder most of the blame for the current problem.

Kim-ming Lin, 12a Wo Mei Village, 2/F, Sai Kung, NT, Hong Kong.

AS Martin Woollacott says (Words upside down, May 15), more people are now fleeing

conflicts than at any time since the second world war. But 50 years ago governments did not just hope that it would never happen again. They put in place international laws designed to protect refugees and help prevent the violations of human rights which help provoke war. We are seeing enormous suffering because we have forgotten about those international commitments.

The UK, the EU and others are reducing their long-term development aid, and giving little diplomatic attention to preventing war before they erupt. Far too little is being done to ensure people's rights throughout the world to education, health and a say in their future; all those things which together add up to a stable society.

When refugees are forced to flee, they often receive a lukewarm welcome from governments which strain and sometimes flout the international agreements they have signed.

It is better to have international law, however violated, than none at all. But without the mechanisms or the political will of governments to enforce it, the law is not able to solve the spiralling global refugee crisis.

Ed Cairns, Policy adviser, Oxfam, 374 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

ABOUT the Norman conquest

I WOULD be more impressed with Diana Norman's claim that it doesn't help to have a famous name (Letters, May 15) if the offspring of the famous made their way under a different name. No doubt Martin Amis would have made his mark under the name of Martin Bloggs, but it would certainly have taken longer.

To say it does not help in broadcasting to be a Dimbleby or to journalism to be a Lawson is like saying that plain and ugly people will do as well in the acting professions as beautiful people. It would be nice to think that they would but it just isn't so.

Terry Mullins, 41 Penn Road, London N7 9RE.

COME off it, Mrs Norman! I am sure that your daughter "struggled to learn her trade as a balance journalist", but her column in the Radio Times reviewing film videos happens to be next to her dad's reviews on — guess what — films!

Joyce Oldfield, 48 Henry Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NB.

Bomb ticking

THE potential contamination of casework discovered at the Defence Research Agency (DRA) forensic laboratory is no surprise (Bombshells in the lab, May 16).

That trace analyses of explosives should be conducted in a laboratory at a site where massive amounts of bulk explosives are handled is an arrangement the stupidity of which has been pointed out often before. But the scientific arguments have been ignored, and the arrangement is a compound of politics and commercialism.

The present mess might have been avoided if the issues had been openly debated but, until now, the DRA has refused to accept any possibility that casework material could have become contaminated either in their earlier laboratory at Woolwich Arsenal (despite the Maguire's) or at the present site.

In the Judith Ward Appeal (1992), any exploration of a contamination issue was thwarted by the Crown, and advised by the DRA.

There are, of course, many questions that must be asked concerning the centrifuge, and other possible contaminating sources of explosives apart from RDX. But such questions are not relevant to the fundamental issue which, it seems, Professor Caddy's brief will not permit him to address. There is no credible justification whatsoever for the conduct of trace-explosives work at the DRA site. The work should be taken elsewhere, away from all conceivable sources of contamination. The techniques and expertise involved are not peculiar to DRA — they are available elsewhere.

(Dr) John Lloyd, Forensic-science consultant, 165 Moat Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 8EE.

Health, in a poorly state

SO, GP fundholding isn't, after all, the best thing since sliced bread (Letters, May 11 and 15). No doubt the economists who designed the scheme will blame the Government's implementation and advocates stronger "incentives" to increase the use of cost-effective medicine.

The irony is that GPs who refuse to prescribe ineffective or unnecessary treatment will be viewed with suspicion by patients who regard their motives as purely financial. Yet another example of economic medicine which makes the patient's prospects even gloomier.

Ruth McDonald, 64 Darby Road, Graysandale, Liverpool L19 9DF.

THE real problem with regard to the financial instability of these unselected NHS quangos is that they are top heavy with bureaucrats, administrators and managers; the new NHS fat cats with their extravagant salaries and perks.

Since its inception, the NHS remains a wholesale purveyor of unproven remedies, as described by the late Professor Archie Cochran. He recommended that it should be subjected to a searching objective evaluation and all treatments and therapies shown to be wanting in effectiveness, discarded. The resulting NHS would be smaller, cheaper and easier to manage.

(Dr) J E Morris, 71 Oxford Road, St Anne-on-Sea, Lancashire FY8 2DY.

Driving in the wrong gear

ROGER Harrabin has clearly not seen Labour's transport policy proposals (The car's no longer the star, Society, May 16). It really is quite daff for anyone to write an article attacking a policy document that they have not read. The allegations made about the content of the document could only be made by a person who has not seen it.

Our draft transport policy will be submitted this weekend to Labour's Policy Forum which consists of elected members from all regions and parts of the party — half of

whom are women. This is far from an elite group of men.

The outcome of this consultation will be made available to all who are interested over the summer. The refined proposals will then be submitted to our conference in October and become the policy which we take into the election. I look forward to an intelligent discussion on the real document in the coming months.

Clare Short MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: A loose shoe on our horse and our farrier is called in. A blacksmith does general repairs to metalwork as well as working with equines, a union hours here, he is concerned to do the job at once so that the hoof does not become broken. We still have a living forge in this village, a warm comforting place redolent of burnt horn and glowing coals. I often call in for a chat. Business is brisk although the farrier is often in his van now, visiting local stables. Like all farriers, he no longer makes horseshoes from virgin metal. It isn't economic, but buys in the quarter ton of ready-made shoes and knocks them into the shape of his customers' hooves. "Some of my contemporaries have gone into wrought iron and metalwork. They thought the recession would kill the horse trade. It hasn't. People with horses in the blood never give up and kids will always want ponies." Having run a game hand down my horse's foreleg, he is now whacking the iron shoe

on his anvil to shape it. Despite exhaustive trials to render the horn of the hoof hard enough to withstand work under our modern conditions without shoeing, a horse's hoof will not work sufficiently to harden unshod. So the forge is the lifeblood of a rural equine community. "Riders are very safety conscious. They like to know that their horses have the best foundation to stand on and a new set of shoes isn't cheap." Actually £28 and they only last about 4 weeks. Acrid blue smoke is now billowing as the farrier fits the glowing iron to the hoof. Satisfied, he quenches it in a bucket of water and starts nailing the shoe to my horse's foot, clipping the ends off the nails, easing them with his hammer to allow for natural horn growth. He fetches a tin full of glistening black oil and slaps some over the hoof. "Make this mix up yourself. Horse fat, soot and cow's urine. Make yer nails grow, this would. There we are, beauty!" and he slaps the black horse on the rump.

VERONICA HEATH

Joy 1/20/1520

Diary
Matthew Norman

ENROLLED today in the Scottish Academy of Heroes is Jim Farry, the Scottish FA. Although he is currently suing the Sun for calling him a "dictator", it is a fight with another paper that concerns us: Mr Farry has banned the Daily Record after it printed a photo in which he looked grim. His letter on the subject is a classic. "Unless I receive an acceptable written apology from the individual(s) — note the gorgeous pedantry of that (s) — any level of co-operation hitherto found helpful to your newspaper (what language is this?) in my own personal involvement is at an end." An assurance that it meant no personal insult wasn't good enough, and so Mr Farry instantly ended all contact between the SFA and the Record. Magnificent. He takes his place in the Academy alongside Fergie, Scotland's most foul-mouthed fan, and Syd Webster, who in vain argued that Arbroath should revoke his ban because he was suffering from piles.

FRESH from his stewardship of OJ Simpson, PR genius Max Clifford focuses on the campaign to install sane and rational Paul Johnson as editor of the Catholic Herald. Max sees exposure as a key. "I advise Paul to lift his profile and to show how caring he is." But how? "Well," says Max, "he could save ward school fees, he could save Paula Yates, and Fergie. By teaching her it is better to give than receive." Isn't this a bit ambitious for so novice a do-gooder? "If he wants that editorship," says Max, "he's gotta really go for it now."

THE form guide to candidates for Lord Chief Justice (Diary forecaster Steptoe chooses the winner late next week) begins with Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, whom we watched in action yesterday. Tall and thin, and believed to be bald under his wig, Sir Thomas has the air of an irritable schoolmaster. His usual lunch is a beef or ham sandwich and a pot of tea. As for his bow — a paramount consideration — this yesterday seemed a curiously being, being deep and fulsome, but involving a sudden hand movement in which he hitched up his trouser legs preparatory to sitting down. Notwithstanding this inelegant trait, and since he has been gentle on the Government than some, Sir Thomas is the 9-4 favourite.

AN important exchange is reported in Hansard. "Lord Kennet asked what royalties will be paid, and to whom," Hansard relates, "for the use of Muffin the Mule on postage stamps." The answer, from Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, is "None".

THE Daily Telegraph publishes what it describes as the most comprehensive examination yet done on New Labour. All the big names are there, but who is this sandwiched between Chris Smith and Lord Irvine? Jonathan Powell, chief of staff and former diplomat, says the caption below the face of Jonathan Powell, former controller of BBC1. Raising doubts about New Labour is one thing, but dredging up the man who commissioned Eldorado is going much too far.

FEARS grow that Dr Julian Lewis may have been kidnapped again. You will recall how subversive forces infiltrated Tory Central Office recently by substituting him with a robotic clone that went doolally, of course, and sent all those facetious letters to the Guardian. Then, thank God, he was released. However, concerns have mounted this week after since he was spotted at an Electoral Reform Society meeting, showing a profound interest in proportional representation — a concept that is anathema to the muscular right. So either he's done a Paul Johnson switch... or the cybernaut is back.

BRITTA Hoerner from Cologne has cancelled the English holiday she won in a competition for the best birth-control slogan after discovering, to her surprise, that she is pregnant.



When the planners came to town

Commentary Peter Preston

IT WAS like the end of a love affair. Almost 33 years ago to the day, I closed the train door on Liverpool and moved to Manchester, never to return. Until this week.

To begin with, the decades of exile were deliberate (who prudently claimed to be a Liverpool expert on the Manchester Guardian?) but later they became more temporising. I had known, in the spring of 1963, what would happen next. The new Liverpool would happen next. The great Graham Shankland had his master plan, the city council had fire in its belly. There would be towers and piazzas and street markets and happy, smiling, optimistic people. Money with added vision, wreaking a revolution. I wanted to see the finished version. Then came the Toxteth riots and the hectoring Hatton, the rubbish in the

streets, the guns, the drugs, Jamie Bulger, infantile disillusion. Who wanted to see that? The truth, on re-acquaintance, is both more mundane and more jolting. A bottle of Guinness either half full or half empty. There are some wonderful things in Liverpool: the skyline, Scott's towering Anglican cathedral, the refurbished St George's Hall. And there are some wonderful people, including Dean Derrick Walters, the saintly scourge of dereliction.

If you look only at the greatness that remains or the districts Walters rebuilt, you can feel hope and pride. If you shut your eyes, that is, to the nothingness which lies in between.

This is a good week to talk about mistakes, about basic human error. Somebody didn't clean Semtex out of the machine. Somebody made a terrible botch of the new British Library. Somebody forgot to tell the abbott what to do and keep the farmers in touch. We can, in the current fashion, order endless commissions of inquiry; but they will say only, at the end, that someone goofed.

Apply similar simplicity to Liverpool. It's hurting and it still ain't working. My cutting book is full of complex theorising about Scouse cul-

ture, state dependency, a climate of blame and recrimination. A city myths still feeds on them. But what's actually happened is much more straightforward. We believed, 30 years ago, that a fading, bombed-out port needed all the wonders of infrastructure. I wrote more leaders for the Daily Post calling for a second Mersey tunnel than I ate bacon sarnies in the staff canteen. But when that tunnel was built, when the M52 and the M56 and the M56 and the M56 were in place, the catch was really M22. It wasn't easier to get into the city. It was easier to get out — or, at a push, never to go there at all.

The statistics are clinical. When I boarded that last train from Lime Street, the population of Liverpool was nearer 600,000 than 500,000. By 2001 it will only be a tad over 400,000. Nowhere in Britain is shrinking faster, down nearly 14 per cent in a single decade. And where have all the people gone? Many of them straight down the yawning jaws of the old tunnel, sucking life out of the deadened centre of the city. Hoylake and Heswall and West Kirby are the middle-class dormitory havens. Birkenhead, once total decrepitude, looks spraucy again. Southport and Formby,

up the coast, are sheenily transformed. The old Liverpool had people living in it, rows of terraces down the Scotland Road reaching to its heart. Now there is only a heart bypass. The dock roads out towards Crosby are bereft for stretching miles of human beings: collapsed warehouses, plastic industrial estates, forlorn patches of parkland, Victorian pubs left standing when the streets that gave them succour were swept away.

The "historic" centre is a small patch of grandeur severed from its support systems, even cut off from Pier Head by a six-lane highway of speeding cars.

Remember Shankland? Remember the little models of squares and European cafes and coloured umbrellas?

Liverpool dreamed, but now Liverpool reminds me of nothing so much as Detroit: a bunker of the past

Remember the space and the grace? Remember, and wipe an eye. Nothing much has changed to the great arc of peeling, grey suburbia — from Litherland to Speke — which encases the city, except that its eyes are now turned towards Lancashire rather than towards Liverpool Pier Head.

Once upon a recent time we had residual faith in planning. This paper had a Planning Correspondent who wrote day by day not about

architecture but about new schemes for regeneration. It is a dead specialty today. The Government believes in development (and would point triumphantly to the white compound that is Liverpool free port); but planning is another. Local government, denuded of cash and power, has mostly given up the ghost. The big issues are bypass protesters in trees and the scattering of lottery money.

Liverpool, at first sight, is the headstone on the grave of that era. Liverpool dreamed, but now Liverpool reminds me of nothing so much as Detroit: a bunker of the past.

When I left town, the city was planning a bright future. Can it still so plan? Or is the ability to dream on a grand scale just defunct? The reality of what happened next would argue just over that it is, but that it ought to be. Golly, we made a mess. A stupendous cock-up. The big office complex on the road to Bootle they were building in 1963 is one falling down today. The big hospital they had lived in Putney for 25 years.

Yet stand on the shore at Birkenhead and look across on a fine spring morning. This is one of the great city sites in Europe. France or Italy would build a palace here. Is there nothing we can do, and nothing we can dream? And if there isn't, what does it tell us? Not about Liverpool — but ourselves, the people we've become?

Instead of Sinn Fein being a minority party in a minority community inside a Protestant majority state, the Irish would speak as one voice at the negotiating table. The so-called Protestant majority of Northern Ireland would be transformed into a national minority in a peace-talks process that would challenge the fundamental construction of the Northern Irish state.

IT WAS and is hard to see how the republicans could bring a stronger set of political counters to the negotiating table. It is impossible to conceive of US president with more personal animus against the current conservative government than Bill Clinton. There will never be a more "green" US president. Similarly, it is difficult to conceive of a government in Dublin that is likely to be more sympathetic to the republican cause.

What rational political purpose could be served by casting these political assets away by rejecting talks and returning to a futile military campaign? The armed struggle demonstrated the will of republicans to resist the British presence, but it did not, and it cannot, advance the cause of a united Ireland. One of the first reporting jobs of my career was the murder of Judge William Doyle outside St Bridget's, amidst the Victorian mansions of Belfast's prosperous Malone Road, in 1982. As the judge was being dragged away, two IRA gunmen walked up to him and shot him dead in the driver's seat of his Mercedes. The first rounds hit the judge in the head, the next in the chest. The women in the emerging congregation, seeing murder, began to scream. The gunman turned and ran away. Judge Doyle was, as the victims of the Troubles went, more important than most, but even his death was not a milestone. As the judge was being dragged away, two IRA gunmen walked up to him and shot him dead in the driver's seat of his Mercedes. The first rounds hit the judge in the head, the next in the chest. The women in the emerging congregation, seeing murder, began to scream. The gunman turned and ran away. Judge Doyle was, as the victims of the Troubles went, more important than most, but even his death was not a milestone.



Farewell to arms

Kevin Toolis argues that however badly they feel the British have behaved, the IRA should lay down the guns and bombs and make their presence felt at the negotiating table

JOHEN Major has taken the propaganda battle to win Irish hearts and minds through the columns of a Dublin newspaper — but it will take more than a few paragraphs to assuage republican doubts over Britain's intentions in the Irish peace process before they declare another IRA ceasefire.

In his Irish Times article yesterday, Major once more focused on the decommissioning issue, whilst also attempting to persuade republicans that the agenda is open and the British government has not predetermined the outcome of a peace settlement. But there still remains a chasm of mistrust between the republican side and the British government. The key question for the IRA is whether they should enter the peace-talks process at all, never mind argue about the piecemeal dynamic of the decommissioning process.

out into another long night in the political wilderness.

Not for the first time in their lives are Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and the IRA leadership caught between a rock and a hard place. From an IRA point of view, to enter the peace talks with the necessary commitment to forswear the use of arms, now and in the future, is to place themselves in jeopardy in the house of their enemy. The goal of Irish republicanism is to remove the British from Ireland, not to lock themselves and the Army (the IRA) into a British-delineated six-county solution. If the peace talks are genuine then Sinn Fein's participation, from a republican viewpoint, is essential. But if the British are lying yet again it is the republican leadership's duty to frustrate the British trap.

The difficulty for the IRA leadership is that the British have in the recent past an unbroken track record in treachery and bad faith. From 1969-76 the IRA and the British government were engaged in a series of clandestine contacts. A republican notetaker at one of these meetings reported that the British government's representative told McGuinness that "the real solution was union... the island would be

one... the Unionists would have to change". The contacts ended in ignominious failure, mutual recrimination, a scattering of falsified documents and outright British denial. As veteran commentators Raymond Mallie and David McKitterick note in their latest book, *The Fight For Peace*, the British version of events in this key period is demonstrably untruthful. In effect the British government lied to the world about the content and nature of its negotiations with Martin McGuinness.

Perfidious Albion under John Major excelled itself again during the 18-month IRA ceasefire that ended with the Docklands bomb. Instead of embracing the ceasefire as a starting point for political movement, Major responded with obstructionism, prevention and the deliberate insertion of a politically impossible demand for a symbolic surrender of IRA arms.

But despite their justified doubt, the stark reality confronting the IRA is this: when will they put their guns down and let the talking begin? From the late 80s onwards Adams's leadership was engaged in a complex political game to align all of the counters in the nationalist camp on to the republican side of the board.

Getting to the bottom of naughtiness



Barbara Ehrenreich

MAYBE it all started with those voluptuous images of young Michael Fay facing down a Singaporean spanking squad, because suddenly there's a rush to paddle the bottoms of America's youth. Prodded by the Christian right, with its militant concept of "parental rights", school districts all over the country are debating bringing back the paddle, and a bill before the New Hampshire legislature would subject teenage graffiti vandals to public bare-bottom spankings — administered, no doubt, by the legislators themselves.

Spanking advocates like California Assemblyman Mickey Conroy laugh off "ivory tower" studies showing that corporal punishment only deepens the incorrigibility of the young — after all, he was paddled as a boy himself and look how he turned out. Conroy, who keeps a collection of paddles in his office and enjoys carrying one around, seems to have grasped one of the more bizarre themes from the sexual underground: that whatever else it is — 19th-century nastiness or enlightened tough love — spanking can be fun!

What to do when confronted with another trend straight from the dank recesses of the Republican id? One goes to the source: in this case, to venues such as the urban weeklies "Anything Goes" personal ads or the Internet's alt.sex.spanking news group, which are chock full of invitations to party with paddles and pants down. Our pro-spanking guardians of law and order should find plenty of kindred spirits in ads such as "Good looking white male prof, early 40s, looking for naughty girl in need of firm, bare-bottomed OTK (Over The Knee)." Or maybe they'd want to contact the "Naughty boy" who feels his transgressions have earned him "a bare-butt spanking, hard!"

The Christian right, which has otherwise done so little to open up the frontiers of human sexual experience, has been campaigning vigorously for the corporal punishment of children for well over a decade. One of their flagship groups, Focus on the Family, advocates it as a means of safeguarding "family values" and the right's original Family Protection Act, first floated in 1980, would have prohibited any federal attempt to outlaw spanking or strengthen the statutes

against child abuse. So at last we know what it is they like so much about "the family": where else, except in a Calvin Klein ad, will you find a group of middle young people whose every gesture and moan seems to cry out for a little OTK?

No doubt the pro-spanking fellows would insist that their interest in paddling is purely asexual, and that the depraved practices of consenting adults have nothing to do with the loving correction of bad little children. But as the spanking personals make all too clear, the adult practice of "erotic spanking" derives its erotic charge entirely from fantasies of kinky incest. In alt.sex.spanking, for example, stern "dads" routinely advertise for "naughty" spankees, or offer to share their family fun, as in: "My teenaged stepdaughter has been bad again. I had to put her over my knee to warm her butt. Turned out it warmed us both up... Pictures and audio available."

Perhaps you think this sort of stuff doesn't belong in a family newspaper — but then what is it doing over in a "family" agenda? If a neighbour starts ranting about bare buttocks or the efficacy of various paddling devices, you'd probably keep the kids locked indoors. But if he does the same thing in a legislative chamber, there's a heartiest applause for his commitment to "old-fashioned values".

IT'S not just spanking. A streak of gleefully hedonistic S&M runs through our culture's entire approach to "corrections". Imprisonment once thought to be adequate chastisement for the criminally inclined, has been redefined by the right as a vacation in a state-supported Holiday Inn. The southern states are bringing back chain gangs; high-profile wardens are offering TV-less 10-man tents as the all-foes alternative to cells. After all, those who savour the thought of prison rapes and beatings, or who enjoy the sight of human beings tethered along the side of the road, have needs that must be met.

Far be it from me to condemn anyone's erotic proclivities, but surely nothing would be lost by getting the spanking freaks out of the legislatures and into the "adult" milieu that specializes in their peculiar tastes. Let the spanking advocates of the political right take a tip from savvy recreational spankers, and seek out their potential spankees on alt.sex.spanking or thereabouts. As for those who continue to insist on their right to spank the under-aged and non-consenting, the challenge will be to come up with some form of punishment, preferably administered by bands of teenage vigilantes, that these miscreants will not enjoy.

Bel Littlejohn is on a Shadow Cabinet friendship weekend

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Mervyn Levy



Face to face... Mervyn Levy sketching the artist John Minton in 1955

PHOTOGRAPH: HILTON DEUTSCH

Drawn towards outsiders

MERVYN Levy, who has died aged 81, was a prolific apologist for contemporary art. He was also, as is clear from his writings, not a man concerned with the business of projecting his own image — a weakness all too evident among some of his fellow critics. It was therefore explicable, though a little sad, that he wasn't listened to as much as he deserved.

Everything Levy wrote or broadcast was motivated by an attempt to understand, and then explain to a wider public, what particular artists were trying to do. The measure of his success will come

when balanced histories of 20th century art are written; more attention will be paid to Levy than to critics who, at the time, were more influential.

He was well suited for his role as an interpreter. Between 1929 and 1932 he studied art at Swansea School of Art before working at the Royal College of Art under Sir William Rothenstein. These years were successful, and in 1935 he won both a Continuation Scholarship and the Sir Herbert Read drawing prize.

Nor did Levy's association with the RCA end with his student years. He continued there as a visiting lecturer in drawing. But with the out-

break of war he found himself at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

After the war Levy took up his own work as an artist, concentrating on drawing. Between 1956 to 1961 he was associate editor of *Art News and Review*, followed by a seven-year stint as features editor of *The Studio*. More important to him was his work for the BBC, in particular for *Kaleidoscope* and the sound archives.

His own art and the artists he admired were intimately linked. Neither were concerned with fashion, nor with the facile movements that attracted so much attention and dominated the arts in the six-

ties, seventies and eighties. Besides his work for the BBC, his drawing and writing for the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Royal Academy Magazine*, he also found time to write 25 books.

Most instructive was his relationship with Dylan Thomas whom he knew well. It led to two drawings, now in the National Portrait Gallery, that suggest Levy the artist deserves to be better known than he was during his lifetime. In the first, carried out in 1938, Dylan is young and intense, while in the second, 14 years later, we see the wreck he became. Both drawings are redolent of the intimacy, insight and sympathy

Levy displayed in his books, particularly in his 1986 study of Carol Weight.

Levy was very much a Chelsea Arts Club man. In his later years he was often seen there, and will be remembered for the crisp diction and his clear mind — clear until the end. He was a spirited raconteur and good at advocating the young artists whose work he had noticed at the many galleries he continued to visit. Mervyn Levy was a little man with a big heart.

Terence Mulvally
Mervyn Levy, artist and critic, born February 11, 1915; died April 14, 1996

Tony Humphris Between hope and disillusion

TONY HUMPHRIS, who has died from Aids aged 45, spent most of his tragically short life promoting Crossland's social democracy with boyish energy and enthusiasm, punctuated only by periodic black moods of inner doubt. He worked for causes to which he was committed without any hint of self-righteousness or grasping ambition.



Tony Humphris... vigour

Born and brought up in Norfolk, the son of a school teacher, he won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital where his lifelong enthusiasm for choral singing, cricket and football developed. (For much of the past 20 years his Saturdays were cheerfully spent with various teams from the Bank of England sports club.) Humphris graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford, with a politics philosophy and economics degree and became a research assistant for the late Philip Williams who was working on Hugh Gaitskell's biography.

At the age of 21 he was elected to Oxford city council and in 1973 he joined the Labour Party research department. Humphris made many lasting friendships, but felt alienated by the posturing of the national executive and ignored by the parliamentary leadership. He became research officer for the clerical trades union, APEX, whose politics he sympathised with, though he felt trapped by the limitations of his role.

In 1979 he stood as a European parliamentary candidate for East Kent, but was profoundly depressed by the NEC's refusal to fight the elections seriously because of Labour's then anti-European stance. He was therefore a natural recruit for the Social Democratic Party. Although

he agreed with the Gang of Four's principles, the rational dedication of the self-confident, socially committed professional classes lacked the warmth of the old Labour Party.

Before the 1983 election, he worked in the House of Commons for Shirley Williams and before the 1987 election for Ian Wrigglesworth, the SDP economic and industrial spokesman. In that election he ran for the SDP, but the party's disastrous showing, and the subsequent squabbling over the merger with the Liberals shocked him. Angered and disillusioned, he abandoned politics only to return to the Labour fold a few years later.

In the final phase of his life Humphris worked for Alcohol Concern and found happiness and security in his relationship with Ruth Thompson. All those who knew him will remember his vigour, passion, and ever-welcoming hello.

Roger Liddle
Tony Humphris, political activist, born November 1, 1950; died April 29, 1996

Bruce Boyce

Baritone who put voices back on song

IN THE years following the second world war, operatic life in London was revitalised by productions such as those from the New Opera of London Italian Season at the Cambridge Theatre, conducted by Alberto Erede. It was here that Bruce Boyce, who has died aged 85, made his debut in roles such as Monterone in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Marcel in Puccini's *Bohème*, and the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

This led the young baritone to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, (newly reopened after wartime years as a dance hall, where Erich Kleiber, who much admired Boyce's work engaged him to sing Count Almaviva in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. It is a tragedy that Kleiber's position at the Garden was only that of guest conductor. Had the situation been otherwise, Boyce might have achieved greater stature in this field.

Born in Ontario, he was brought in Nebraska, and after a spell "going west" to California, graduated from Cornell University. He furthered his studies in Europe

where Rudolfe Melé gave him the sound vocal technique that was to be his "golden touch" and which he passed on to many now famous pupils.

Boyce first met the pianist Gerald Moore when they were both serving in military intelligence during the war and in the subsequent recital partnership he was greatly admired for his musical perception and, in German Lieder and French Melodie, his excellent enunciation of the text.

His command of imagery and character in Hugo Wolf's style and the unforgettable accounts of the Schubert *Die Schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise* cycles were admirable. His performances in the Bach *St Matthew Passion* bore witness to a great mastery of the style and dignity inherent in the music and the drama.

Thankfully we are left with a legacy of his art in the recordings of Lieder with Gerald Moore, the *St Matthew Passion* with Dr Reginald Jacques' Bach Choir, together with his famous recordings of Delius's *Sea Drift* conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham and *The Mass of Life*.

Boyce was a giant, in physical stature, as an artist and, in his later years, as a teacher of singing both privately and at the Royal Academy of Music. He had a great understanding of style and was an excellent musical coach. In recital, oratorio and opera work, where he could also convey ideas of the staging. In teaching the Verdi *Falstaff L'Onore* aria, for instance, he would become Baroloph and Pistol, cringing on the floor with hilarious reactions.

Yet alongside all this would continuously stride a thorough concern for technique. He had an unerring ear and would listen intently, swiftly coming to a conclusion over matters of improvement. Advice was always given in a jovial, kind and optimistic manner, usually with a shout of "attaboy!" when success was achieved.

His philosophy of technique carried not "gimmicks" but was simply based upon a notion that the singer is a broadcasting station which needs a clear channel, usually with a shout of "attaboy!" when success was achieved.

His philosophy of technique carried not "gimmicks" but was simply based upon a notion that the singer is a broadcasting station which needs a clear channel, usually with a shout of "attaboy!" when success was achieved.



Bruce Boyce... unerring ear

voice, as he could droily remark, came to him for painstaking repair and he deplored the misuse of young voices in over zealous opera schools. When he retired from the Royal Academy of Music in 1985 and continued his private tuition, he could, at the age of 75, still "knock off" a top A flat better than singers half his age. He would often teach for six to seven hours a day.

To balance the genial extroversion that he displayed in his lessons there was a quiet reserved manner, almost mystic-like. His philosophy ran deep yet with a single-minded, uncomplicated awe and wonder at the meaning of life.

Sir John Branker

In the chair

SIR JOHN Branker QC, who has died aged 87, was a former Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados and the last of that thirties Barbadian political generation who fought for black rights, particularly the right to vote.

He studied at the prestigious Harrison College, read for the Bar at the Inner Temple, and was called to it in 1933. He took silk in 1961 and was knighted in 1969.

"Brancaks", as we knew him, was first elected to parliament in 1937. During his time in Britain he was influenced by the Liberal Party and back in Barbados took the radical step — for those times — of espousing Liberal causes as a Congress Party member.

By 1961 the Congress Party had lost its influence and Branker joined the Barbados Labour Party. Five years later he joined Errol Barrow's breakaway Democratic Labour Party and became leader of the opposition when Barrow lost his seat.

When the party won the 1961 general election Branker ceded the premiership to Barrow who by then had won a byelection. He opt-



John Branker... ready wit

ed instead for the Speaker's chair since that permitted him to carry on his beloved law practice.

For 10 years Branker was a popular and well-respected Speaker. He stepped down in 1971 and was then appointed President of the Senate, a position he held until 1978, serving a remarkable total of 39 years in parliament.

A soft-spoken man with a ready wit, his trademark idiosyncrasy was that he wrote with green ink. When we signed the book at his funeral service, sure enough we were handed a pen with green ink. He had given his instructions and knew he would get a little smile out of each of us. He leaves a wife, Gwen, and a son.

Peter Morgan
John Eustace Theodore Branker, lawyer and parliamentarian, born February 9, 1909; died April 25, 1996

Jackdaw



Rubbery issue

WARNING: Boys cannot read this. If you are a boy and are reading this, stop immediately. The following article is chock-full of highly intimate girl secrets that will be ten times more embarrassing than any TV commercial for feminine-hygiene products that you have ever seen. So quit it, I mean it, you'll be sorry.

Condoms Demystified There are basically three kinds of condoms: non-lubricated latex, lubricated latex, and lambskin. The lambskins are no good because they haven't proven to be a barrier to infection. Anyway, they're

really made of lambies and that makes us sad, especially around Easter time. (The real reason we don't like them is that they smell like lamb. One is tempted to lubricate them with mint jelly.)

There are variations on the basic latex condoms. Some condoms are pre-lubricated, with spermicidal jelly even. Others are not.

The strongest variation by far is the ribbed latex condom. Why are these condoms ribbed? This is supposed to be stimulating? Should one attempt to play washboard tunes on it? This is just part of the problem with condoms. Condoms were, and are, designed by men.

If Girls Designed condoms... What a wonderful world it would be. Skip the ribbing, skip the lube. If women designed condoms there is no question that they would be padded. "But size doesn't matter!" comes a chorus of voices. (The loudest voices come from boys who are peeing. Stop reading right now.) Sure, length doesn't matter. But give any girl a small dose

of truth serum and ask her about width. Admit it. If padded condoms were placed on the market, hordes of screaming women would storm their local drugstores and dash out with lube. Unfortunately it wouldn't work. After all there is that tickly issue of boy sensitivity, which we can't overlook, even if we occasionally want to. Padded condoms would rob boys of the skin to skin sensation they already claim condoms rob them of and we can't have that.

The Condomed Man It is far, far easier to start them on condoms when the relationship is young. In fact, the condom is a terrific tool of seduction when you're ready to make the leap between the sheets. Call that someone on the phone and say to him, casual like, "I just bought a new condom and I'm dying to try it out... want to come over?" Or when out on the town with your paramour, and the clock on the club house wall says thump thump thump, push that hunk against a wall and growl, "listen, buddy, I've got a condom in my pocket and I

am not afraid to use it. We're going home."

And lastly, here's a heartening fact that I bet even you did not know. Ms. Modern: Marketing tests prove that women buy more condoms than men do, and have for years. That's why ever since the late '70s, condom packages have featured air-brushed photos of couples brushing hands at sunset. They thought we'd like that. We don't, but until someone puts Brad Pitt on the front, it will be so.

Some essential snippets from A Girl's Guide to Condoms in Bust, the Bad Girl's edition.

Shock waves THE BBC's plan was to remove Radio 4 from long-wave. But many expatriate Britons living in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, often working for the European Commission, all rely on long-wave for their daily dose of BBC Radio. Only long wave signals can reach out so far from Britain.

When the BBC looked likely to press on regardless,

someone in Brussels got hold of the BBC's internal telephone directory. This listed the private numbers for all office fax machines. For weeks on end the expats used EC fax machines to send the same letters of protest over and over again to every fax machine in the BBC.

Each morning the BBC staff would find their offices knee deep in fax messages and their machines either jammed or out of paper. Many of these militants have now bought Astra satellite dishes so that they can tune into BBC radio stations on Astra's analogue frequencies. If Astra even thinks about turning off these frequencies, it's office staff can expect the worse.

Luxembourg satellite operator Astra has been cagey about its plans for switching off existing analogue satellite radio stations to make room for digital services. These services require new digital radio receivers costing several hundred pounds each. However, Astra offices may be in luck, for the clever expats working within the European Commis-

sion will no doubt put the new receivers on expenses. New Scientist

Fried celibate THE Vietnamese monk decided that being persecuted by the government wasn't cool, so he burned himself to death. His name? Reverend Quang Duc. His death was seen around the planet even though he wasn't the only monk to do it.

The sizzling celibates

Giant Robot Giant Robot: burning issues

chose busy intersections, marketplaces, public squares, cathedrals, a university, and the government palace in Saigon. They would appear out of nowhere, popping out of cars or jumping off bicycles, douse themselves with gasoline, sit with their legs folded and strike a match.

This story of a man who really saw the light, in Giant Robot.

Art market "THERE were going to be two steel and glass tanks, each with a couple of cows in it. The cows were going to be attached to a hydraulic system, with one cow mounted behind the other in each tank to simulate copulation. They were not in formaldehyde. He wanted a piece that decayed in front of your eyes. He had devised a filtration system to remove the fumes, it would have worked. Fear of intervention by the Environmental Protection Agency caused the project to be aborted."

The new centerpiece, called "Some Comfort Gained from the Acceptance of the

Inherent Lies in Everything" he is an artist not likely to call any work "Untitled" — consists of two cows, sliced like a loaf of bread and standing in twelve tanks. This time in a solution of formaldehyde and water.

The United States Customs needed to be persuaded that the cow piece and another piece in the show — a bisected sow called "This Little Piggy Went to Market, This Little Piggy Stayed Home" — were art works, and were not subject to USDA regulations on foodstuffs.

Jay Jopling, Damien Hirst's London dealer, discusses the artist's attempts at smuggling contaminated cows out of England, cleverly disguised as art, for his first major New York show. All of them were sold. New Yorker.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC3R 5ER.

Emily Sheffield

July 20 1996

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

McAlpine insists Revenue inquiries relate to 'personal matters' • Equities salesman held in raids

Building chiefs arrested

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

TWO directors of the construction company Alfred McAlpine and a City-based stockbroker were yesterday arrested following an investigation by the Inland Revenue.

A spokesman for McAlpine said that the arrests had been made after search warrants were issued by a circuit judge. "Our investigation is continuing. I certainly cannot go into more details. The men are assisting us with our inquiries."

A spokeswoman said that the arrests were made after search warrants were issued by a circuit judge. "Our investigation is continuing. I certainly cannot go into more details. The men are assisting us with our inquiries."

Mr Grove was unavailable for comment. Aged 67, he has been in the housebuilding industry throughout his career and built up a substantial private fortune. He is understood to have interests in Coventry City football club and this year received shares and cash worth around £15 million in respect of the sale of his private company, Canberra, to McAlpine in 1988.

Senior financial and general management positions within the Barratt housebuilding group.

are well-known and highly influential figures within the construction world. "one said. "But I think that the market has taken on board that the investigation does not involve the company itself."

Notebook

Mutual loss is political gain



Edited by Mark Milner

THERE has long been a suspicion that the Government's dilatory approach to the modernisation of the Building Societies Act has been politically motivated. Every conversion, takeover or merger in the sector which is eased by a confused regulatory framework means potential cash bonuses for members, who also happen to be voters.

Mr Cruickshank is held in a rather more measured way. Make no mistake, however, it is at least as tense a struggle. By contrast, British Telecom's struggle with Ms Spottiswoode's opposite number at Otef, Don Cruickshank, is being carried out in a rather more measured way. Make no mistake, however, it is at least as tense a struggle.

A stout rebuff for drink critic

Ian King

ERNEST Saunders, the disgraced former chairman of Guinness, yesterday made an astonishing attack on the company at its annual shareholders' meeting and called for it to diversify into the soft drinks sector.



Drinks reception... Pickets make their case outside yesterday's Guinness meeting

"about soft drinks and other less controversial drinks" and not "purely on alcoholic drinks".

Later, Mr Greener said he had absolutely no idea why Mr Saunders had chosen to make such a high-profile attack on Guinness.

Security at the meeting, at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel, was tight following a demonstration outside.

not mentioned during the meeting, which did see questions asked about Guinness' treatment of its Irish pensioners and about its contribution to Thalidomide victims.

MAM goes it alone with 26pc leap in profits

Patrick Donovan

MERCURY Asset Management, which controls 8 per cent of the London stock market, yesterday announced a near 26 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £240.4 million.

Equitas begins treasure hunt

Lisa Buckingham

ONE of the world's largest and most prestigious investment contracts has been put up for grabs by Equitas, the vehicle designed to handle old claims in the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

money would be placed in bonds and gilts, with investments and currencies closely matched to liabilities.

which centre on old asbestos and pollution claims from the US market.

ness is expected to end up with American fund managers — about two-thirds of the funds are in US dollars — British investment groups such as Schroders, Commercial Union and BZW Asset Management are believed to be strong contenders.

Disney joins the big hitters by buying into cowboy's outfit

Mark Tran in New York

MICKEY MOUSE yesterday took up baseball with the announcement that Walt Disney plans to buy 25 per cent of the California Angels baseball team, a stake valued at \$22.5 million (£15 million).

Ungrateful BT

Martin Walker in Washington

BRITISH Gas is at very public loggerheads with its regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, over Ofgas's plans for a price cap on its Transco pipeline business.

Profit rise erodes BT price defence

Nicholas Bamister
Technology Editor

THE chances of British Telecom persuading the industry regulator to water down tough new price control proposals were demolished yesterday, when the resister reported profits above the £3 billion mark for the first time in four years.

up new subscribers or persuading existing ones to take a second or third phone line.

BT's ability to grow the market and thus offset the impact of price cuts will strengthen the determination of Don Cruickshank, director-general of Ofcom, to continue with a tough price-cutting regime until 2001.

cent of its £14.4 billion turnover now came from business covered by UK regulation.

BT's pre-tax profits rose £37 million to £3.02 billion as redundancy costs were more than halved.



In the past BT has more than compensated for the loss of customers to the cable operators — running at about 50,000 a month — by signing

On the other hand, Clinton favours trade with Beijing

Martin Walker in Washington

THE Clinton administration yesterday formally told a bemused Congress that it was seeking to extend China's Most Favoured Nation trading status, although simultaneously threatening \$3 billion of trade sanctions unless Beijing "carried out its commitments to stop the liberate piracy" of US software, CDs and videos.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,825.00	France 7.59	Italy 2,306	Singapore 2.06
Austria 15.60	Germany 2.25	Japan 1,930	South Africa 6.36
Belgium 46.15	Greece 360.00	Netherlands 2,517.5	Spain 187.75
Canada 1.92	Hong Kong 11.41	New Zealand 2.14	Sweden 10.05
Cyprus 0.4950	India 82.42	Norway 9.70	Switzerland 1.82
Denmark 8.72	Ireland 0.9400	Portugal 232.00	Turkey 112.03
Finland 7.00	Israel 4.90	Saudi Arabia 5.84	USA 1.4775

Building society fury at state nod to 'carpetbaggers'

Teresa Hunter

THE Government was yesterday accused of betraying building societies by applauding three of Britain's biggest mortgage lenders — the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich — for abandoning their mutual status with a share bonanza for members.

The Building Societies Association, at its annual conference in Birmingham, pressed the Government for a new legislative regime to close the "nonsensical" loophole in the law which permits speculators in effect to overwhelm societies by seeking windfalls from a takeover or flotation.

But economic secretary Angela Knight refused to act against "carpetbaggers" looking for an instant profit by opening an account, when she addressed the conference.

She said: "Dare I say it in this conference committed to the benefits of mutualism, that the conversions of societies such as the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich are putting money into people's pockets?"

"It is a paradoxical triumph for the building society movement. On the one hand there are a number of the largest and nationally prominent societies in the process of leaving the sector, while others have taken the opportunity to reconfirm their commitment to mutualism by explaining what it means to their members and moving closer to them by offering larger packages, better rates and other benefits."

She added that in the end the decision about whether to stay mutual or convert is a decision which only the societies themselves can take. It is not for the Government to pre-empt that choice.

Societies were disappointed at her rejection of the call for a strengthening of the "two-year rule" made by outgoing chairman Ken Culley, who is chief executive of the Portman.

The 1986 Building Societies Act intended that only members of two years' standing could benefit from a society's conversion but many societies have sidestepped this rule by paying shares — rather than cash — to new borrowers.

Ms Knight said: "The Government has to look after the interests of all building society members. With no change to the two-year rule each and every building society which chooses to convert has, if it decides to use it, a wide discretion over the distribution of shares. The choice is theirs. You may be able to make a decision only for mutual building societies themselves, but I have to look at the wider map."

But Geoffrey Fitchew, chairman of the Building Societies Commission, the sector's chief watchdog, delivered a robust endorsement of the achievements of building societies, attacking those commentators who have suggested that the shrinking of the sector is inevitable.

Britain's 10th biggest building society, Birmingham Midshires, yesterday confirmed that it had approached its smaller neighbour, the West Bromwich, with a view to opening merger talks. But the West Brom said it had no intention of entering talks about either a merger or takeover with anyone and was determined to remain independent.



On a roll... Francis Mackay (left), chief executive of Compass Group, Britain's largest caterer, and finance director Roger Matthews meet customers at the Upper Crust branch in London's Charing Cross Station — the first unit of the company's snack chain to be redesigned in a move which boosted sales by 20 per cent. The group pushed up profits from £31 million to a record £67.8 million in the six months to March 31. PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

Labour sets out plan to revive housing confidence

LABOUR yesterday promised that as a government it would try to restore confidence in the housing market by maintaining mortgage tax relief and encouraging a new breed of flexible home loans, writes Teresa Hunter.

Nick Raynsford, shadow housing minister, said he wanted to transform the private rented sector into a high quality housing option which would boost the jobs market by making relocation simple.

He told the BSA conference in Birmingham: "The terms 'repossession' and

'negative equity' are easily bandied around, but they speak volumes for the insecurity and lack of confidence that has dogged the housing market over recent years."

Those are the problems which we have to address — and government does have a role to play in the process.

"A new housing policy for Britain should have the first aim of restoring confidence in the housing market so that homeowners and potential homebuyers can once again invest in a new home, or the improve-

ment of their existing home, without the fear of being trapped in debt and without the spectre of repossession hanging over their heads."

Labour wants a partnership between private and public sectors to create a safety net for the sick and unemployed.

Mr Raynsford called for the development of local housing companies. He said: "Such bodies, established on a non-profit-making basis as registered social landlords, could well provide the catalyst for new investment."

Gas price clash on course for MMC inquiry

Simon Seavie Industrial Editor

THE prospect of a Monopolies Commission inquiry into British Gas loomed larger yesterday as the company stepped up its war of words with the regulator, Ofgas, over price curbs which it says will cost 10,000 jobs and jeopardise safety.

With Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, preparing to query British Gas claims that the price curbs on its Transco pipelines division would damage revenues, safety and jobs, the company made it clear that it was prepared to force an MMC intervention.

Richard Giordano, the company's chairman, used the release of worse-than-expected first-quarter figures to spell out his opposition to the regulator's proposals, which he described as "totally unacceptable", and to reiterate that they would force Transco to halve its workforce.

On Monday Ms Spottiswoode put forward proposals to cut Transco prices by 20-28 per cent next year and to peg rises to 5 per cent below inflation in the four following years.

"We will do our utmost to influence the outcome of this

review. However, if the final proposals are unacceptable Ofgas will be obliged to refer the matter to the MMC," Mr Giordano said.

Ogas said that Ms Spottiswoode would send a letter to Mr Giordano by the end of the week challenging him to justify the assertions over jobs, as well as claims that the price controls would cut revenues by up to £850 million and could compromise safety.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is said to be bemused by BG's assertions, believes the job claims are exaggerated and has estimated that the controls would cut revenues by £460 million-£750 million. She also believes that safety standards should not be affected.

British Gas saw profits fall from £506 million to £471 million on a current-cost basis in the first quarter. A £100 million gain from cold weather was offset by a "significant" loss in the industrial and commercial markets, where the company faces increasing competition. This sent the supply division crashing to a £85 million loss.

Transco profits rose from £450 million to £908 million, despite higher operating costs. The exploration and production arm increased profits by £14 million to £226 million.

Tunnel takes toll at airline

Keith Harper Transport Editor

BRITISH Midland would have doubled its profits last year had it not been for its London-Paris passenger preferring the Channel tunnel, the airline's chairman admitted yesterday.

Sir Michael Bishop said that although the worst effects of the competition were now over, the airline's passenger traffic was down by 25 per cent.

The decline in the business market was taking off as some regular travellers returned to flying. "People who tried both modes of transport have now settled into the one that suits them," said Sir Michael.

Profits for Airlines of Britain, of which British Midland

is the parent company, were £52 million for last year, up from £300,000 in 1994. British Midland itself made a pre-tax profit of £41 million against £4.4 million in 1994.

Sir Michael said that despite the tunnel, the airline was growing strongly and making a considerable investment in new aircraft. It has just phased out its last second generation aircraft, which means that with quieter planes it can compete on an increasing number of routes in Europe.

Sir Michael confirmed that the company was having talks with Richard Branson about new ticketing arrangements through the Channel tunnel. Mr Branson's Virgin group is part of a consortium which has taken over European Passenger Services, the British arm of Eurostar; the

tunnel rail company. Sir Michael saw some travellers flying to Paris but returning to London by train.

He also confirmed that Virgin Atlantic had been one of the companies that had made inquiries about a possible takeover of British Midland. Sir Michael said: "We regularly receive unsolicited approaches, but we have not pursued any of them, and we are not in any discussions."

The airline had no plans to operate internal services in other European Union states when restrictions are lifted next year. Sir Michael said that continental costs were much higher than those in the UK.

The company has just been involved in a case against the Belgian state carrier, Sabena, about charges at Brussels airport.

Predators lined up for fag-ends left by Hanson

Outlook

Roger Cowe

BY THIS time next year the break-up merchant Hanson will have broken itself up, leaving a motley collection of building and building-related businesses.

Hanson yesterday announced the timetable for the four-way demerger which will break up what was the 1980s' most successful dealmaker — and which will perhaps set the scene for a renewed burst of takeovers.

Assuming that the September shareholder meeting approves, October 1 will see Imperial Tobacco regain the quote in London which disappeared with Hanson's acquisition of Imperial in 1986, and on the same day Millennium Chemicals will float on the New York stock market. Millennium consists of Quantum, SCM and Gidco.

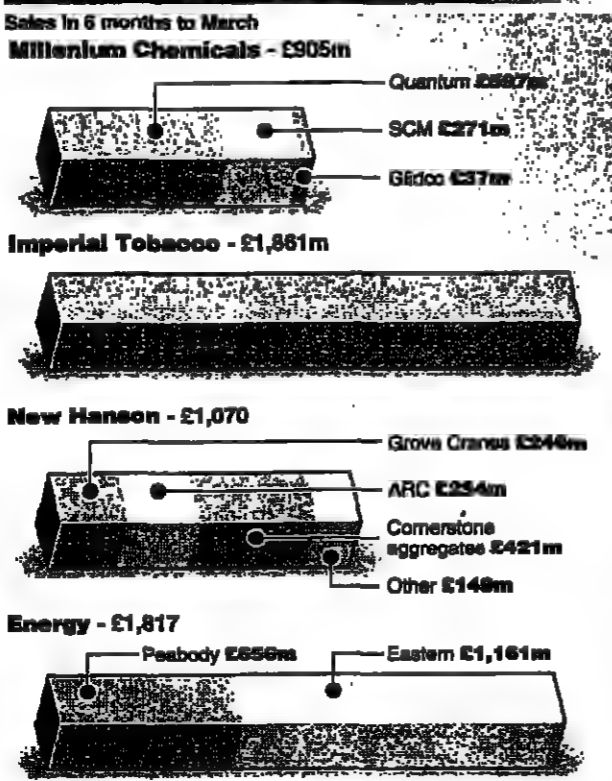
The as-yet unnamed energy group which includes Eastern Electricity as well as the Peabody coal company will follow down the independence trail on January 31.

These spin-offs will leave Hanson as predominantly an aggregates company, with ARC in Britain and Cornerstone in the US. It will also own the US business Grove Cranes, and a few smaller British businesses, including Hanson Brick.

Lord Hanson, who will remain chairman of what has been described as New Hanson, said yesterday: "The demergers are firmly on track."

The break-up of Hanson's debt mountain was also announced yesterday. New Hanson will take very little of the

Hanson Quads



forecast £3.5 billion bank loans, since it will retain responsibility for the group's heavy public debt issues.

Millennium will emerge as a highly geared business, despite the cyclical nature of the chemicals industry, and despite heavy debts having forced Quantum to seek salvation with Hanson in 1993.

Its chairman-elect, William Landuyt, said this was in keeping with US practice, where investors do not expect high dividend payments.

Quantum's cyclicalty was

evidenced in Hanson's six-month results, also released yesterday. The US ethylene producer was responsible for all of a £123 million drop in the group's operating profits on a comparable basis.

That reduction was offset by the inclusion of Eastern Electricity and profits on the sale of the stake in National Grid, which was inherited with Eastern.

With further profit on the sale of a majority stake in Suburban Propane, the final pre-tax profit figure was £171 million ahead of last year at £794 million, despite higher interest costs and the underlying drop in operating returns. Sales rose from £5.9 billion to £6.2 billion.

The group's break-up may lead to more of the takeovers which Hanson's name has always been associated with. New Hanson is seen in some quarters as a potential predator, although the conditions which allowed Hanson such success in the 1980s have disappeared.

It would be ironic if Millennium were to be acquired by ICI, which was the rock on which Lord Hanson's 1980s charge finally foundered, and if Imperial Tobacco were to seek a merger with United Biscuits, the white knight which failed to stop Hanson buying Imperial.

On the other hand, Imperial has itself been seen as a takeover target for a global tobacco company. Either way, the takeover roller coaster is unlikely to stop.

News in brief

Taxman's fears over self-assessment

THE Inland Revenue's new system of self-assessment for taxpayers could break down within months of its introduction, according to a leaked internal memo, published in today's edition of the Investors Chronicle. The memo expresses fears that trial results, if repeated nationally when the new regime goes live in April 1997 "could lead to a virtual breakdown of self-assessment".

The IR has already conceded that 20 per cent of the 5,000 people being part in its trial in Leicester failed to return forms on time. But the memo, which is said to have been written by a senior Revenue official, reveals that a further 25 per cent sent returns back with only a month to spare.

The memo warns that such patterns could mean a backlog of more than two million returns, grinding the whole system to a halt. — Ian Wylie

Postal strike demand

DIRECT mail companies yesterday called on the Government to lift the Post Office's monopoly on letter delivery so that alternative arrangements can be made by private firms in the event of a national postal strike this summer. The Direct Marketing Association, which represents junk mail advertising companies, said a stoppage would cause irreparable damage to the industry and lead to substantial job losses.

Charities would lose money, advertisers would switch to radio and television and jobs would be lost in Royal Mail if the strike goes ahead, the association claimed. The Communication Workers' Union is currently balloting 140,000 members for industrial action over pay and hours of work. — Seamus Milne

BTR warning hits shares

BTR shares plunged 5 per cent yesterday after a warning that first-half profits would be "moderately below" the £728 million made a year earlier. The company blamed a slump in chemicals, its polymer operations in Taiwan and in its sealing systems division.

Its annual general meeting was told that the second half of last year had shown a significant downturn, exacerbated by Chinese controls on imports and the group was "still coming out of that position". BTR shares fell to 294p, a 16-month low, before rallying to close at 297p, a fall of 14p. — Tony May

More Debenhams stores

AN aggressive store-opening programme at Debenhams will see the department store firm, owned by Burton Group, add a fifth to its existing sales space by the year 2000. Burton announced yesterday that it will open Debenhams stores in Lincoln, Trafford Park, Banbury and the Gateshead Metro Centre. In the six months to March, Debenhams delivered £98 million of the group's £33 million trading profit. — Roger Cowe

Muted cheers for flat GrandMet results

Pauline Springett

FOOD and drinks group Grand Metropolitan yesterday unveiled a 3.3 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £455 million and said it was looking forward to a strong second half now that most of its restructuring was out of the way.

The figures were depressed by a static performance from its international drinks business, IDV, whose brands include J&B whisky and Smirnoff vodka. Sales of drinks rose by 5 per cent but operating profits were the same as last year, at £211 million.

John McGrath, the chief executive, said sales volumes were being boosted by price increases plus successful, if heavy, advertising expenditure. Drinks prices have risen by 1.5 per cent so far this year and the company is expecting this to top 3 per cent by the year end, twice the 1995 level.

Spending on drinks marketing was £222 million in the first half, a 6 per cent rise on

the same period last year. Mr McGrath said the sum was equivalent to 15 per cent of drinks sales, a proportion he intended to maintain. "That is a large sum of money. But I'm not worried about it. What we are selling to an extent is image, isn't it?"

The company's US foods business, Pillsbury, whose brands include Haagen-Dasz ice cream, produced a 47 per cent rise in operating profit to £240 million, while Burger King's worldwide sales rose by 9 per cent.

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Racing

Dr Massini stakes his Derby claim

Graham Flock

NEW name entered calculations for the Vodafone Derby yesterday when Dr Massini ran out an impressive winner of the Memorial Glasgow Stakes at York, surging clear into the final furlong to beat King Alex by three and a half lengths.

Available at 33-1 before yesterday's trial, Dr Massini is now a best-priced 7-1 for the Epsom Classic, run on 8 June. The world's most famous Flat race might come a shade too soon for him, but he looks sure to win good races for Michael Tabor and Michael Stoute.

Pat Eddery, returning from suspension, made the running on King Alex. Michael Kinane settled Dr Massini towards the rear, produced his mount approaching the final furlong, and Dr Massini quickened away to win decisively.

"I was impressed by that," said Stoute. "The further he was going the better he was going." Certainly the manner of Dr Massini's victory suggested that the Derby should hold no fears for him. Stoute added that the promising horse, who did not run as a two-year-old, had his debut slightly delayed by a bruised hock.



Doctor's orders... Dr Massini (left) is too good for King Alex at York

Locally-trained winners of the big races at York are a scarcity, but Venture Capitalist gave David Nicholls his first Group success when winning the Duke of York Stakes.

Capitalist at Newmarket 11 days earlier. "It's a good day, but a sad day," said Nicholls. "Alex has done all the groundwork with this horse."

Westcourt Magic made the early running before being passed by Passion For Life at halfway, but the pair had gone too fast for their own good. From the rear Roy Cochrane brought Venture Capitalist with a late challenge which proved just too strong for Branson Abby and Royal Figurine.

Venture Capitalist, owned by a septuagenarian local farmer, will now be prepared for the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Trainer defends banned Daly

ALAN DALY, the apprentice jockey, picked up a five-day ban for "irresponsible riding" after finishing first on Daily Risk in the Redham Claiming Stakes at Salisbury yesterday. His mount was disqualified and placed last, with the race awarded to Flying Penant.

The move sparked another debate between racing professionals and local stewards, with Simon Dow, trainer of Daily Risk, commenting: "It does seem a bit of a harsh decision as the boy was on a horse who hangs to his right in any case and would prefer softer ground."

Newmarket card

Table listing race times and names for Newmarket card, including 2.15, 2.50, 3.20, 3.50, 4.20, 4.55, 5.25, 5.55, 6.25, 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25, 8.55, 9.25, 9.55, 10.25, 10.55, 11.25, 11.55, 12.25, 12.55.

Stratford (N.H.) tonight

Table listing race times and names for Stratford (N.H.) tonight, including 6.15, 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45, 10.15, 10.45, 11.15, 11.45, 12.15, 12.45.

Newton Abbot (N.H.) tonight

Table listing race times and names for Newton Abbot (N.H.) tonight, including 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks including York, Newbury, Thirsk, and Newmarket, listing race numbers, winners, and odds.

Blinkered first time: NEWBURY 3.0 Miss Universal, 3.40 Tassiat, NEWMARKET 4.20 Capture the Moment, Lahik, STRATFORD 5.15 Mafuta, THIRSK 2.00 Islay Brown, 5.00 Just Distort, 6.30 Valiant Man.

Thirsk runners and riders for eight races

Table listing Thirsk runners and riders for eight races, including race numbers, runner names, and rider names.

Newbury with form guide

Large table providing a detailed form guide for Newbury races, including race numbers, runner names, jockey names, and various statistics.

Soccer

Venables wary of China cracks

David Lacey

TIMES in football have changed beyond recognition when England can approach a match against Hungary with less trepidation than a visit to China...

Championship squad, Uefa refused England permission to call up Adams after the deadline. Now Wright could be the beneficiary.

Although 27 players will go to Beijing and Hong Kong, Venables will have to tell five of them that they have not made the cut for Euro '96 before he names the squad of 22 on May 29.

If it includes Adams then obviously Ehiogu will be among those disappointed. Of the rest Peter Beardsley, Jamie Redknapp and Nicky Butt are the most likely to be named.

Robert Lee, too, or so it was thought. Down at Blenheim Abbey yesterday Lee's buoyant mood was being contrasted with an unusually glum David Platt.

Some changes will have to be made, what with Gascoigne involved in the Scottish Cup final, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman rested and Steve Stone doubtful with a tweaked hamstring.

It will be surprising if Alan Shearer, the man most crucial to England's success in Euro '96, is anything more than a substitute.

Asked about transfer speculation linking him with Manchester United, Shearer said it was flattering, but that he had signed a three-year extension to his contract at Blackburn and expected to remain there. Anything, in other words, is possible.

England: Bosman (Arsenal), Flowers (Blackburn), Walker (Tottenham); Neville (Man Utd), Adams (Arsenal), Wright (Liverpool), Campbell (Tottenham), Shearer (Manchester United), Pearce (Man Utd), Anderson (Tottenham), Stone (Man Forest), Gascoigne (Manchester United), Ehiogu (Chelsea), Platt (Arsenal), Lee (Newcastle), Redknapp (Liverpool), Wilson (Blackburn), McManaman (Liverpool), Ferdinand (Newcastle), Fowler (Liverpool), Barry (Middlesbrough), Beardsley (Newcastle), Shearer (Tottenham), Shearer (Blackburn).



Happy Hearts... a young fan among the crowd of 132,940 at Hampden Park in 1956 enjoys the 3-1 cup win over Celtic

Why our Hearts belonged to Alfie, Willie and Jimmy

Duncan Campbell, our crime correspondent and token maroon loon, on those glory, glory days of 1956 when half of Edinburgh rejoiced and Glasgow finished second best

IT WAS sung to the tune of the Yellow Rose of Texas and the first verse went thus: There is a team in Scotland its colours are maroon It's got the greatest centre-forward The world has ever known...

40,000-plus crowd, the smell of the nearby brewery and a diet of regular success: the four seasons following the Cup victory Hearts were placed second, first, second and first in the league and won the League Cup again.

No one can quite remember why Hearts got a walk-over in the 1989-90 Cup when Burnhill Thistle scratched but who cares? The sub-editor on the Pink News and Green Dispatch always had an easy time: Heart Attack, Hearts Broken, Happy Hearts, occasionally if we managed only a draw, Wooden Hearts...

you cannot spell, here's what it says... somehow didn't have quite the same charge as another old favourite, sung to the tune of Bless Them All

We've got our backs to the wall! As back to the west coast they crawl Cause we'll no be mastered By no Glasgow bastard So up with the Hearts Fuck 'em all!

Afterwards, the shows were driven across Scotland in the team bus, visiting their home villages. One stop was Blackburn in Lanarkshire, the home of the captain Freddie Mackie, who, as Mackie recorded, "his mother came to the cottage door to see the Cup held proudly by her son and his father threw a sprig of heather into the vehicle"

Edinburgh Castle was flooded for the side's return and it was reported that there had not been such a large crowd in the centre of the city since the body-snatcher Burke was hanged in the Lawnmarket.

There had, of course, been glory days before. Who can forget the 15-0 Cup victory over Kilmarnock in 1926? They're not singing any more.

Ferguson to see out the century

Ian Ross

ALEX FERGUSON can leave for his family holiday this weekend in a peaceful frame of mind having agreed a new four-year contract with Manchester United.

The manager entered a second round of negotiations yesterday intent on securing one of the longest and most financially lucrative deals in the history of British football.

Although the 54-year-old Ferguson had hinted that he might resign unless his demands were met, the indications last night were that the two parties were merely conducting some preliminary sparring before getting down to brass tacks.

Ferguson, who led United to a second Double last weekend, still had 12 months to run on his contract. He had been hoping for a six-year contract to take him up to retirement.

The United chairman Martin Edwards was clearly anxious to secure the manager's long-term future, though not necessarily with one single deal.

"I hope very much that Alex is the manager in six years," he said. The euphoria generated by Sunderland's promotion to the Premiership dissipated yesterday with the announcement of enormous rises in season-ticket prices.

Supporters next season must pay substantially more than their counterparts at some other leading clubs. Standing tickets have been priced at £295 - a rise of 51 per cent - while seat tickets have risen by 34 per cent.

The increases, designed to help team-building, was described as "disgusting" by a supporters' spokesman. "I think these rises really are dreadful, especially as we will be playing four fewer league games next season," said Keith Charlton, of the Sunderland Supporters' Association.

"They should have tried to keep the prices down because there was a big rise last year and, no doubt, there will be an increase in 12 months."

The club, defending the decision, insisted that supporters must dip into their pockets if Sunderland are to survive in the top flight. "We are not one-year wonders; we are here to stay," said Sunderland's secretary Mark Blackburn. "We expect to be here for many years and the commitment to remain in the Premiership has dictated these prices."

Saints free Grobbelaar

Russell Thomas

BRUCE Grobbelaar's flamboyant goalkeeper career in English football has almost certainly ended after 17 years, 500 league games and a host of headlines.

The Zimbabwean, who faces charges of match-fixing at Winchester Crown Court in January, has been released by Southampton. He will be 39 in October.

Grobbelaar, who flew out to Zimbabwe earlier this week, is thought to have talks with a South African club. Southampton stood by their man when the match-fixing allegations broke 18 months ago but Grobbelaar was restricted to only two games last season by Dave Beasant's form, reaching the 500 landmark in the 3-0 league defeat at Aston Villa last month.

Southampton's director of football, said last night: "We promised Bruce when all the fuss broke that we would stand by him all the while he was under contract to us. And this we have done. He was never less than a superb professional."

Grobbelaar joined the Saints on a free transfer in 1984 after 13 gloriously successful years with Liverpool. Beasant's upsurge in fortunes has been crowned by a new three-year contract after the goalkeeper, 37, was voted Southampton's Player of the Year. Ken Monkou has also re-signed for the same term.

Mark Walters, Grobbelaar's former Anfield team-mate, has also been released. The winger, 31, who arrived at The Dell in January, made only five Premiership starts. Bayern Munich, Uefa Cup winners, have signed the German international midfielder at Aston Villa for Werder Bremen for £3.5 million.

Sport in brief

Sailing

A determined Chris Law has reached the semi-finals of the Brut Royal Lynton Cup, writes Bob Fisher. He beat the defending champion and a previous nemesis, Thierry Penponnet of France, by three races to two in the quarter-finals to put himself in line for a repeat of his 1994 victory. Law won the second, third and fifth races.

Judo

Diane Bell, 32, from Newcastle is still dispatching opponents, writes Duncan Steen in The Hague. She beat the German Susanna Singer with a footsweep and Cinziana Cavazzuti of Italy with a strangle to earn a semi-final against Belgium's Gella Vandecavey. Britain's heavyweight Michelle Rogers and lightweight Kate Howey also reached the semi-finals.

Rugby Union

The English champions Bath are set to swoop for the Welsh players Leigh Davies of Neath and Robert Howie of Bridgend. They are believed to have offered Davies a five-year contract worth up to £500,000. The fly-half Arwel Thomas has joined Swansea after one season with Bristol.

Badminton

Gillian Gowers and Joanne Muggeridge saved a match point to help England make a startling comeback in the Uber Cup in Hong Kong yesterday, writes Richard Jago. England beat the hosts 8-2, with Gowers and Muggeridge overcoming Ng Ching and Tung Chau Man 3-15, 17-14, 15-4. Julia Mann winning the second singles 11-8, 11-4 against Koon Wai Chee and Alison Humby taking the deciding third singles 12-9, 11-4 against Chan Mei Mei. Earlier England lost the top singles and second doubles.

Rugby League

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Warrington v Huddersfield. Second Division: York v South Wales. Alliances: Second Division: Doncaster v Huddersfield.

Cricket

News and Scores 0891 22 88+ Counties updates Derbyshire 31 Middlesex 40 Durham 32 Northants 41 Essex 33 Nottingham 42 Glamorgan 34 Somerset 43 Gloucestershire 35 Surrey 44 Hampshire 36 Sussex 45 Kent 37 Warwickshire 46 Lancashire 38 Worcester 47 Leicestershire 39 Yorkshire 48 Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

Soccer

FA YOUTH CHALLENGER CUP: First, second legs Liverpool (2) v West Ham (0).

Fixtures

(730 unless stated) Soccer FA YOUTH CHALLENGER CUP: First, second legs Liverpool (2) v West Ham (0).

Results

Soccer

NON-LEAGUE: Plymouth Parkway 1-0, Plymouth Parkway 1-0, Plymouth Parkway 1-0.

Golf

RENOVAL AND HEROES INTERNATIONAL OPEN (Thames): First round (69/70 net) scores: J. H. Williams (69), J. H. Williams (69), J. H. Williams (69).

Tennis

ATP ITALIAN OPEN (Rome): First round scores: J. H. Williams (69), J. H. Williams (69), J. H. Williams (69).

Badminton

UBER CUP WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Kong): Group A matches: England 3-0, England 3-0.

Basketball

ATLANTA THUNDER (118-91) vs MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES (102-91). Atlanta 118-91, Memphis 102-91.

Hockey

LAURENT-PERRIER MASTERS (Quebec): Round-robin Group One scores: Canada 3-0, Canada 3-0.

Real Tennis

LAURENT-PERRIER MASTERS (Quebec): Round-robin Group One scores: Canada 3-0, Canada 3-0.

Evening Racing

ANTREE 2.45: 1. STY GRASS, Mr O Walker (5-1), 2. Whitehouse (10-1), 3. Saddle Creek (11-1).

THE TALE OF THE FUGGLE HOP

Fuggles A Brand NEW old Fashioned ALE

0891 22 88 30

Cricket County Championship: Warwickshire v Hampshire

Laney learns in his leisure time

David Foot at Edgbaston

NOT a lot is going on in Hampshire's way this summer. Too few players are running into early form and here they were without their injured captain John Stephenson and off-spinner Shaun Udal.

paces and deceptive little thrust, rather like a crafty poacher bounding over a stile pursued by a confused quarry. Reeve, the buoyant beneficiary, then had two for nine from 12 overs.

Warwickshire have been doing things triumphantly in triplicate over recent years. Maybe that is why their cakes were three times the going rate on some cricket grounds.

Tour match: Sussex v Indians

Two lights is third degree

Jeremy Alexander sees the tourists huddle in Hove

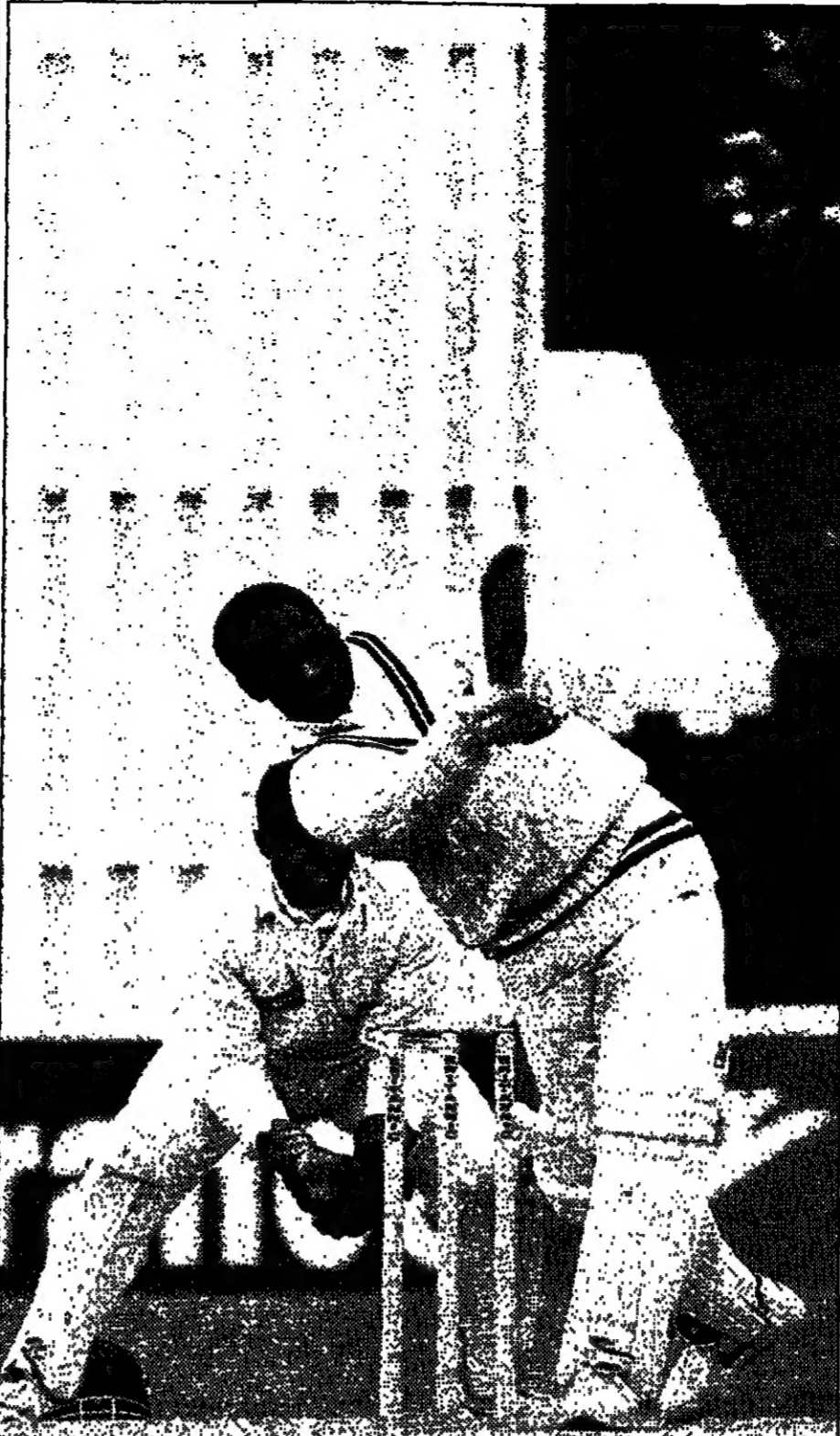
HISTORY was made here yesterday. Stereo headphones commentary was on offer, free, to spectators for the first time at a cricket ground in Britain "subject to availability and suitable weather".

The spinners had little chance of grip and none of the rhythm that comes from the arm. India will hope for another 25 degrees Centigrade for the first Test at Edgbaston on June 6.

Durham tailed and topped

DURHAM came off worse on a day of small wonders at Chester-le-Street as Yorkshire's Richard Stemp and Chris Silverwood put on 110 for the last wicket and Chris Scott took seven catches, respectively the best and the best in the home side's inglorious first-class history, writes Chris Curran.

Yorkshire, having mustered 335 thanks to the tailenders and 99 from their class Australian Michael Bevan, then reduced the hapless newcomers to 19 for three at the close. Darren Gough, returning to fine all-round form by the day, first clouted 43 then had the so far disappointing Sherwin Campbell bow for a duck.



Over the top... Carl Hooper hits out on the way to his 155 yesterday

Essex v Kent

Hooper reigns sublime

PAUL WEAVER at Ilford. LAYING here can be no pun for the fielding side. It is a little like crown green bowls. The ground has the shape of an inverted saucer so the outfield, already fast and bumpy, is downhill in all directions.

Hooper was out to a miscel- laneous but ultimately excellent catch by Nasser Hussain at deep square-leg. The rain forced the players from the field shortly afterwards with Kent 328 for four and Cowley, full of square drives, 90 not out.

want more midsummer cricket at county headquarters. But the only person who looked more miserable than the hand-rubbing fielders yesterday was the man in the ice-cream van.

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

Minimalist approach brings Robinson maximum reward

David Hogg at Trent Bridge. DURING the spiritless days of early season, when the crowd is sparse and the weather biting cold, the traditionalism comes under the sternest test. On such days, Tim Robinson comes into his own.

bowlers did well not to let their interest wander. They were rewarded by occasional miscue calculations elsewhere: Pollard and Archer fat-batting catches to cover when well-set; Metcalfe pulling another underswinging delivery to square leg; Robinson does not make a habit of such things.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, and Extras. Includes sections for Warwickshire, Hampshire, Durham, and Lancashire.

Essex v Kent

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs, and Extras. Lists individual player performances for Essex and Kent.

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Motor Racing

Hill put under pressure by McLaren pair

Alan Henry in Monte Carlo

DAMON HILL and the Williams team kept their cards close to their chest in yesterday's first free practice session for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix.

plenty of work to do in developing the chassis and engine, and when we get that right, and I can be comfortably quickest, then we can seriously go for it. At the moment I'm a bit on the ragged edge, almost touching the barriers. It's spectacular but it's not what I really like."

Tennis

Edberg wins a longer goodbye

Stephen Barley in Rome

STEFAN EDBERG, playing his last year of top tennis, spends virtually every day saying goodbye. Goran Ivanisevic must have dearly wished the 30-year-old Swede had turned to the huge crowd at the Foro Italico yesterday and uttered his arris- cato Roma there and then.

holding an 8-7 lead. Not that this counted for much. Ivanisevic's confidence was low and Edberg took swift advantage in the first set.

Rugby League

Quinnell spurns Wales

SCOTT QUINNELL, who discovered to his chagrin that Richmond in the autumn, has declined a place in the Wales squad for this summer's European Championship, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

Rugby Super League advertisement listing various clubs and contact information. Includes 'All the latest News 0930 168+', 'General 970', 'Bradford 971', 'Leeds 972', 'St Helens 973', 'Warrington 974', 'Wigan 975', 'Wakefield 976'.

STELLA ARTOIS GRASSCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS QUEENS CLUB 10th-16th June. BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 1414.

Large vertical advertisement on the left edge of the page, partially obscured and difficult to read. Includes 'son to', 'Century', 'free', 'laar', 'Rugs', 'United', 'Book', 'Cricket', '0891 23', 'Sp'.

SportsGuardian

Tyson ducks Lewis fight

Kevin Mitchell

LENNOX LEWIS'S show-down with Mike Tyson has been snatched from his grasp at the negotiating table. "Tyson is not going to fight Lennox. Tyson will vacate the WBC belt rather than fight Lennox," Lewis's financial backer Panos Eliades conceded last night.

Sounding exhausted after all-night transatlantic talks with Tyson's promoter Don King, the most talkative man on the planet, Eliades added: "They are all running scared of us. Tyson is just going to walk away from the WBC."

In return Lewis can meet Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas in September and, assuming he wins, fight for the vacant World Boxing Council title, most probably against Oliver McCall, the American who dethroned him by knockout two years ago.

As soon as Eliades has agreed compensation — "Don't forget I spent \$750,000 on the court cases up to date so they've got to pay that back because they've driven me to hell and back" — Tyson can challenge the World Boxing Association titleholder Bruce Seldon, a fellow King fighter, in Las Vegas on July 13.

Seth Abraham of the pay-TV channel Home Box Office said everything changed yesterday when Bowe's manager Rock Newman settled his differences with HBO, giving Abraham an alternative to Lewis-Tyson.

Abraham, interestingly for someone close to the game, thinks that Tyson is not prepared to fight Lewis or Bowe. "I have said on many occasions that Don King is a very good judge of boxing talent. Having waited this long to get Mike out of prison, to start his climb back to get the belts, he is not going to risk it when there are men like Bruce Seldon out there."

SPANIARD SETS THE PACE IN ARCTIC OXFORDSHIRE



Bobbling along... Nick Faldo, suitably dressed for winter, strides out at the 5th yesterday on his way to a first-round 70 PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARNON

Faldo returns with an ace

David Davies sees the Masters champion defy the conditions and hit a hole in one

THE WIND, when it whistles in from the North-east, originates in the numbingness of northern Norway, moves malevolently across the North Sea, and, in the fullness of time, hurls itself against the open hillside that is The Oxfordshire golf club.

Yesterday, with the wind-chill factor taking the temperature down to a mere

degree above freezing point the competitors in the Benson and Hedges International wore more woolly hats than you see on Ski Sunday and more mittens than are needed in St Moritz as they fought to delay the onset of hypothermia.

"This was just a survival day," said Nick Faldo, delighted with his two-under-par 70, while Colin Montgomerie, after a 72, said: "It was horrible, just horrible."

The leader, Miguel Angel Jimenez, more accustomed to the balmy breezes of Malaga, could not keep out the cold with a shirt, three sweaters and his waterproofs, but managed a 68.

Faldo got an internal glow going when he holed in one at the 171-yard 13th. "It was needed," he said. "I couldn't feel my hands from the 8th onwards, even with mitts on. Seventy was a great score on a day like that."

The hole in one was achieved with a seven-iron, unusual in that Faldo has had seven aces all told, the other

six all being with a six-iron. It took the Masters champion from two over par to level and birdies at the 17th and 18th took him under par for the first time.

The 535-yard 17th has a double fairway, split by water and a narrow green intended to receive a wedged third shot. But professionals are programmed to see par-fives as holes where they must get up in two. Yesterday there was an 11, a 10, two nines, two eights and every other score down to the eagle three of Wayne Westner.

Faldo's four was secured by hitting a 224-yard two-iron over the water to a grass bunker in front of the green and then chipping to two feet. Then he birdied the last as well, holing a slippery downhill from 21 feet. It was put to him afterwards that he must be glad to be back from America. "Yeah," he said ironically. "It was 85 degrees for two weeks before I left."

There is a strong-looking cast immediately behind Jimenez, featuring Peter Baker, Jean Van de Velde, Bernhard Langer and Howard Clark, all on 68.

Baker spent long months during our designated winter trying to recapture the way he played during 1993, when he won twice and was a star of the Ryder Cup team. "I've

been trying to get those same feelings back," he said. "I've been looking at videos of me taken then and it's paying off."

Baker has had two top-10 places and two top 20s already this season as a result of curing an old fault. "When I'm playing poorly," he said, "my legs and hips fly about all over the place, like Fred Astaire on a bad day."

Langer's 69 was notable for the absence of any short putts missed. The German came close, as he admitted yesterday, to succumbing to the yips for the fourth time in the United States this year. But as a convinced Christian he feels able to pray about such things and he asked "for wisdom and for healing". He said of his putting yesterday: "There was not one stroke that was bad, and most were excellent."

Sweden's Anders Forsbrand was disqualified after a blunder at the 17th. He took a free drop when his ball was embedded. The ball rolled into a bunker and he played it, whereas he should have dropped.

Forsbrand signed for a bogey six at the hole and a round of 78. By not adding a two-stroke penalty for his mistake he had signed for a wrong score.

A welcome response to green peace



Frank Keating

THE Peace Match in good old Dublin tomorrow will be an ardent and affecting event, that's for sure, although those unaware of its concept or of rugby might think that a fixture labelled Ireland versus the Barbarians can be anything but pacific.

The occasion restores a lustre to a game's tarnished image from a season of quarrel and mayhem, and is the brainchild of Ireland's former dandy and genial ball-playing full-back Hugo MacNeill, who telephoned from the South a fellow Lion from the North, the rusty-haired touchline trampler Trevor Ringland, and suggested they combine to put on a gala international match that proclaimed sport's pining for a restoration of the peace that had so briefly enriched the whole island during the ceasefire.

"Rugby has always drawn the Irish together irrespective of creed or politics, so let's embellish the idea of a new peace and the futility of violence," was the gist of the Catholic MacNeill's proposal to his Protestant friend.

Being closer to the barricades, Ringland was uncertain. "But when friends said 'why not?' I rang Hugo and said 'great, let's go for it.'"

Sport has so often averted its eyes and let the real world go by. In Ireland it couldn't, of course, nine springtines ago when three Ulster rugby men drove down to Dublin for World Cup squad practice.

David Irwin was driving, his passengers were Philip Rainey and Nigel Carr. As they approached the Killeney border post a bomb was detonated that killed the judge Mr Justice Gibson and his wife.

Their injuries from the blast were not enough to stop Irwin and Rainey travelling to the World Cup but to all intents Carr, that athletic whizz of a hard flanker, never played serious rugby again. The three of them, for sure, will be at Lansdowne Road tomorrow.

Soccer still fields two separate national teams — representing Ulster's IFA and the Republic's FAI. But cricket and hockey select representative sides from all Ireland. The hurling and football of the

Gaelic Athletic Association also embrace all 32 counties, though in the North those games may be said to be accidentally divisive. Only Catholics play them.

But the GAA still retains its ban up there on any player who was a member of the RUC or British security forces. In genuflection to MacNeill and Ringland and the goodness of sport, why doesn't the GAA tomorrow morning announce the end-forthwith of that archaic blackball?

Catholics in the North are soccer through and through. No Catholic club plays rugby. The last Catholic to appear for Ulster was probably the City of Derry's Lock Mark McFeeley, 15 years ago.

Meanwhile, Ulster's rugby remains, well, interesting. While the individual clubs have minimal support and put out very weak XV's in the all-Ireland club leagues, when the best play collectively as Ulster they have become almost unbeatable and up to last season won the island's inter-provincial championship outright nine times in 10 years. In an Ulster shirt they perceive every match as an heroic one for their province's defiant and beleaguered destiny.

My most touching memory of the proof of Irish rugby's glorious unity was in the Triple Crown year of 1986 when, against France in Dublin, a replacement lock, Brian McCall, came on to pack down behind the prop Jim McCoy and the hooker and captain Claran Fitzgerald.

FIRST scrummage, there was McCall, with his stubbled chin clamped between the haunches of the two hairy-arsed front-row toughs.

McCall, born in Belfast, was a captain in the British Army. McCoy was a cop in the RUC. Fitzgerald was a commandant-major in the Irish national army. The three of them leaving for one green-party cause.

At cricket, Ireland lost gamely enough to Surrey on Tuesday at pastoral Eghinton. They fielded seven from the North and four from the South. A few years ago, Ian Botham was due to play at Eghinton on a Monday. The night before, he said the evening might be dull because of Ulster's stricter Sabbath licensing laws. But he was still convivially holding forth in the pavilion bar at 4am — to show that the certain unifying force among sportsmen, north and south, is a predilection for the nice taste of a drink. As they shall discover again in this auspicious weekend in Dublin when North meets South meets the world to swell the clamour for peace.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,655
Set by Fidelio

Across

- Jewish half gain three-quarters credit (7)
- Pretender creates a miracle (7)
- Great lake follows a habitat (5)
- Those winning do not score it (9)
- A ley sheep gambling, deputy leader is one nodding off (10)
- Sort of glass, round and pale practically (4)
- Forces accommodation? (7, 4)
- Are radius lines (ten) and circle becoming slow? (11)
- Not strong play on words, Andy (4)
- Consolatory items at the Olympics? (10)
- He maintains reserve in public relations (9)
- Wise gift of first person runs by right hand (5)

Down

- Not many succeeded to break down a sentence (6)
- Exchange German coin and French (5)
- The Press stare strangely at the uninvited (10)
- Nationality of the last character in the churches (5)
- The caucas majority from the continent are white (9)
- How the seaman acts (4)
- As is Shakespeare's Twelfth Night? (7)
- Country football ruled Italy possibly (8)
- Message from Graeme of Roma translated (10)
- Dogged saviour (9)

16 Basis for "Views on Expressionism"? (3,5)
17 Discoverers hold long fragments (8)
19 Excluding but concerning name lacking fruit (6)
20 Non-productive sort of elements, say (6)
23 Anti-Gaelic lines? (5)
24 Rustic feature denoting the past transatlantic season? (4)

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